COME JOIN US!!

RECRUITMENT OPEN FOR ALL POSITIONS.
EXPERIENCE APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
JAP>ENG TRANSLATORS ESPECIALLY NEEDED.

WE'RE CAPSLOCK FRIENDLY :D

おおきく振りかぶって

Vol.4

ひぐちアサ

HIGUCHI ASA

アフタヌーンKC

CHARACTER PROFILE
【キャラクター・プロフィール】

1 Name 2 Birthday 3 Blood Type 4 Height / Weight
5 Defensive Position 6 Throwing Arm / Batting Arm
7 School Year, Class 8 Family Members

OOKIKU FURIKABUTTE

KOSUKE IZUMI

①泉　孝介
(Izumi Kousuke)
②November 29
③O
④168cm / 55kg
⑤Outfielder
⑥R / Switch Hitter
⑦Year 1, Class 9
⑧Father Mother
Older Brother

SHINTARO NISHIHIRO

①西広辰太郎
(Nishihiro Shintaro)
②February 10
③A
④170cm / 60kg
⑤None
⑥R / R
⑦Year 1, Class 3
⑧Grandfather Grandmother
Father Mother Younger Sister

CHARACTER PROFILE キャラクター・プロフィール

CHIYO SHINOOKA

①篠岡千代
(Shinooka Chiyo)
②March 25
③AB
④154cm / 42kg
⑤Shortstop(softb...
⑥R / R
⑦Year 1 Class ...
⑧Grandmother Father
Mother Younger Sis...

MARIA MOMOE

①百枝まりあ
(Momoe Maria)
②April 18
③B
④164cm / ?kg
⑤None
⑥L / L
⑦None
⑧Grandmother, Father
Mother Younger Brother

TSUYOSHI SHIGA

①志賀剛司
(Shiga Tsuyoshi)
②November 26
③A
④180cm / 79kg
⑤None
⑥N/A
⑦Moth Teacher
⑧Wife Son
Daughter

Cover Design KARTEN

アフタヌーン
KC384

おおきく振りかぶって 4

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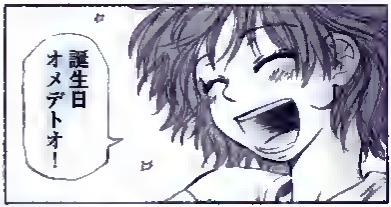
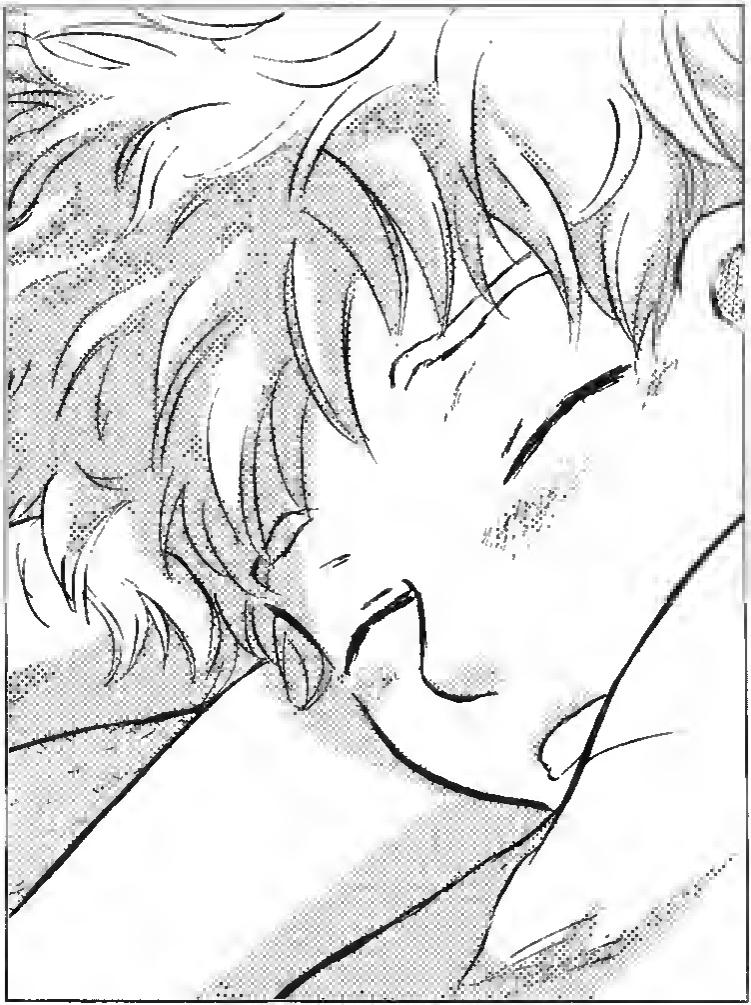
全国高等学校野球選手権
埼玉大会の開幕が目前に迫る。
練習の時間はいくらあっても足りない。
初出場でも、部員が10人でも、
本気だから。
西浦高校野球部、
初めての「夏」が始まる。



面白さ絶対保証の高校野球漫画!



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Omake - pg 211

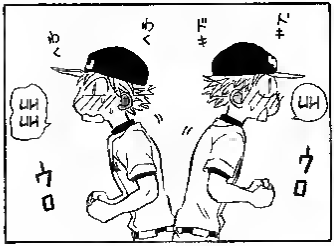
STEP BACK, STEP BACK!
NISHI-HIRO, BEHIND YOU!
COVER THE BACK!
ALL RIGHT, YOU'LL GET IT!
USE ONE HAND!
THAT'S A GOOD POSITION!

Chapter 10 The End of Spring

NISHIHIRO! QUICKLY, THROW IT TO THE INFIELD!
THANKS, NISHI-HIRO!
NICE THROW!
AH, YES!
GOOD JOB, LEFT FIELD!
AH. THANKS!
NICE CATCH!
EEP!
COME ON!
HI, HI, HI.

NISHIHIRO-KUN'S FIRST CATCH!
THIS WAS ...
*It's the 2nd game today so Mihashi is on the bench

IT FEELS GREAT TO CATCH YOUR FIRST FLY BALL, DOESN'T IT?
THAT'S RIGHT.


HH
HH
ドキ
わく
ウロ

AH!
WAH!
とかちこっ

OUCH!
OW
OW
とてちてち

ARE YOU OK?
DOES IT HURT ANY-WHERE?
はっ
S...
S...
SORRY!
Holding the eyes
I... AH...
...I'M FINE...
HOW ABOUT YOU?
AH!
SHE'S
SHE'S SO NICE
WE HAD A COLLI-SION...
AHAHA
I'M OK.
EH...
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY TODAY, ISN'T IT?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
AS A MANAGER, I KNOW SUCH THINGS!
....!
THEIR TIME HASN'T COME YET.
LOOKS LIKE
Sensei
MIHASHI! LINE UP!
THANK
THANK
THANK
TH...
TH...
THA..
AH!

WELL THEN.
ARE YOU ALL STUDYING PROPERLY?
WE WON BOTH GAMES TODAY, TOO.
THIS MEANS WE HAVEN'T LOST A SINGLE ONE BEFORE THE TEST WEEK, BUT...

...B
ー

BE-
CAUSE
OH
OOH

WHY DOES IT MATTER?
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THE TEACH-ERS?

YOU WON'T TELL ME PRACTICE IS ALWAYS FUN?
REALLY?
WELL ...

YOU START TO THINK:
FOR EXAMPLE! ONE DAY, AFTER EXCEP-TIONALLY HARD TRAINING...

BUT YOU KNOW!
IF YOU WANT TO DO YOUR BEST AT BASEBALL, STUDYING IS ALSO IMPORTANT!

IS IT REALLY OKAY...
TO DO NOTHING BUT PLAY BASEBALL ALL THE TIME?
YOU GET THE IDEA!
AT TIMES LIKE THAT, YOU ANXIOUSLY PICK UP YOUR REPORT BOOK.
GAH, WHAT'S THIS?!
THEN YOU THINK SELFISHLY TO YOURSELF:
"AS I THOUGHT, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE PLAYING BASEBALL!"
IN OTHER WORDS,
STUDYING BECOMES A CONVENIENT EXCUSE!
ひっ
3 OR EVEN 4 RED F'S!

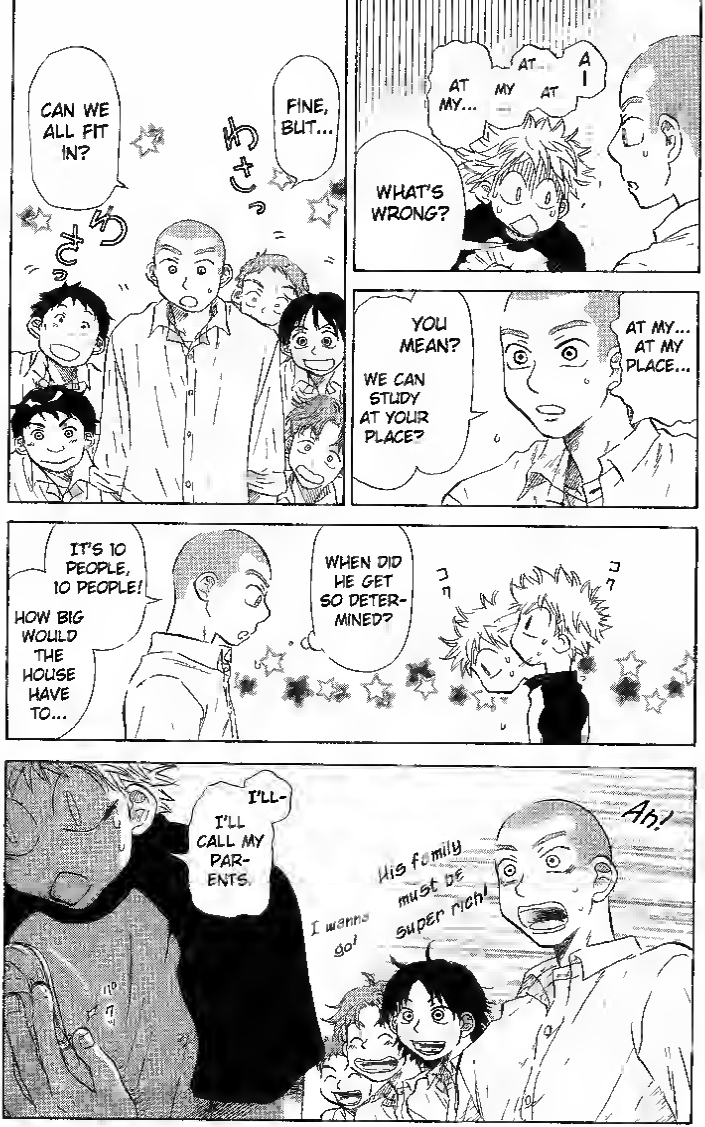
※ In Nishiura you can be conditionally promoted to the next year with 2 F's

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, BUT IN THE END YOU NEITHER TRAIN NOR STUDY!
.....
YOU START RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES. YOU'RE BURNING INSIDE BUT YOU CAN'T LET IT OUT!
BUT THEN YOUR PARENTS FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR HORRIBLE GRADES!
IS SHE SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE?
SOUNDS SO REAL, IT'S SCARY.
Caption: -YES!-
MAKE SURE YOU AT LEAST PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS!
NOW, TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T COME TO THIS!

MEEEE
ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE HOW WE'RE DOING.
MEEEE
WITH ORAL?
MEEEE
MOD-ERN HIS-TORY?
MATH ?
WHO HAS TROUBLE WITH GRAM-MAR?
EEP!
I CAN'T LET YOU PLAY IF YOU FAIL THE TESTS, YOU KNOW...
YOU...

HANAI-KUN!
YES? ...
NO, YOU SEE ...
I WORK EVERY NIGHT DURING THE TEST BREAK.
rubs head
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WORK...
G...
EH?
YOU ...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP THEM?
I'LL LEAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOOKING AFTER THESE TWO TO YOU
SO BAD THAT I DUNNO HOW BAD.
HE WAS ASKING YOU, TOO
UH ...
...YOU TWO, EXACTLY HOW BAD ARE YOU?
I CAN DO ENGLISH, BUT MATH WILL BE DIFFICULT.
BIOLOGY IS IMPOSSIBLE, TOO!
LOOKS LIKE IT CAN'T BE HELPED. LET'S MEET AFTER SCHOOL TODAY.

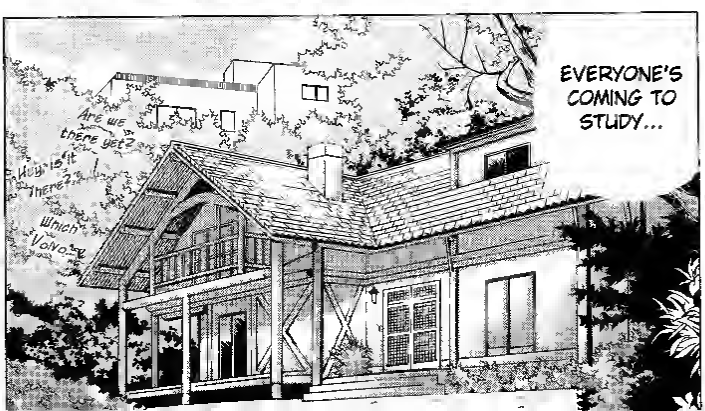
I CAN TAKE CARE OF LITERATURE. I NEED HELP WITH MATH, THOUGH.
I HAVE TROUBLE WITH CLASSICAL LITERATURE
English for me, too.
BY THE WAY, I WANT HELP WITH ENGLISH, TOO.
HUH?
わいわい
EVERYONE, HUH?
WHERE DO WE MEET?
•NUDGE•
HUH?
YOU WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING?
UM
UM
WHAT IS IT?
UM
AT THE RESTAURANT?
BUT IT WOULD BE TOO NOISY.
AH
SAME WITH MCD'S.
UM
THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED TODAY.
UM


CAN WE ALL FIT IN?
FINE, BUT...
わっ
わっ
WHAT'S WRONG?
AT MY...
AT MY
AT
AT
AI
YOU MEAN?
WE CAN STUDY AT YOUR PLACE?
AT MY... AT MY PLACE...
IT'S 10 PEOPLE, 10 PEOPLE!
HOW BIG WOULD THE HOUSE HAVE TO...
WHEN DID HE GET SO DETERMINED?
I'LL- I'LL CALL MY PARENTS.
I wanna go!
His family must be super rich!
Ah!

UWAH...
I INVITED PEOPLE TO MY PLACE...
ON MY BIRTH-DAY.

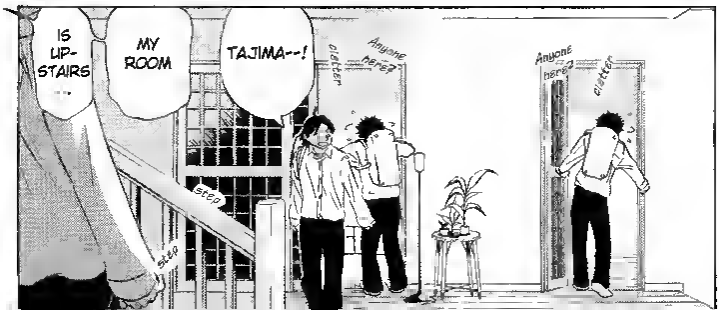
I'M NOT...
DECEI-VING ANYONE

ON MY BIRTHDAY
SOME-ONE'S COMING OVER
IT'S THE FIRST TIME
*HURTS
Get thangs ing!
Gotta buy some food


EVERYONE'S COMING TO STUDY...
Are we there yet?
Which is Wakana's?

Next time, we can take a shortcut!
It's not far from my house by bicycle!
In social studies there's a ton of things to memorize!
I need help in math...

NO-
NO-BODY'S HOME
HMM?
COME ON IN.
ABE!
OH, COM-ING!


IS UP-STAIRS ...
MY ROOM
TAJIMA--!
Anyone here?
clatter
Anyone here?
clatter
step
step

IT'S KIND OF A PRETTY ROOM!
IT'S ...
OOH,
OOF!
CRSAK
HERE.
THIS ROOM IS
MINE.
fuss
WHY CAN'T WE EVER DO ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ORGANIZED AT THE LAST MINUTE?
THE DESK IS BURIED IN DUST...
Thick.
SNEEZE
THOSE TWO ALREADY HAVE CLUTTERED SCHOOL DESKS TOO.
I UN-DER-STAND ...
MY PARENTS REDECO-RATED
Re-placed the wall-paper
IT WAS A GUEST ROOM, SO
WH-WHILE I WAS AWAY,
YOU'RE NOT USING ANY-THING IN THIS ROOM EXCEPT THE BED, ARE YOU?
MESSY

NOT YOU!
YOU TWO GET NISHIHIRO!
HIC!
GRAB!
GRAB!
WHOA!
THEY'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT STUDYING!
GUYS ...!
THESE
Nishihi, you out here?
Where's the room?
FOR ENGLISH, GO WITH ME!
FOR MATH, GO WITH ABE!
GLANCE
GLANCE
NOW, LET'S BEGIN!
PULL IT TOGE-THER!

I HEARD THAT HE'S SO GOOD THAT HE DOESN'T NEED TO STUDY BEFORE TESTS!
HERE IS NISHI-HIRO-SENSEI!
HE'LL TEACH YOU EVERY-THING!

WE'LL STUDY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR FIRST.
OKAY!
Silence
THIS IS THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF STUDYING TOGETHER!
MIHA-SHI,
DON'T BE NERVOUS, JUST LISTEN CLOSELY.
RE----------N!
SHOCK!
RIGHT! LET'S BEGIN!
RE----------N!
OH!
IT'S A GIANT BIRD, SINGING!
IT'S A BIRD!
MY PARENTS ARE HOME!
BIRD, HUH?
A BIRD?
WHA-
WHAT KIND OF CALL WAS THAT?

...
Slam!
EVERY-ONE, WAIT HERE!
HEY!
running
clatter
I AL-READY TOLD THEM.
IT'S OKAY.
ARE WE IN TROU-BLE?
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE SHOES IN THE DOOR-WAY?
WHAT ABOUT WORK?
pop
I LEFT EARLY!
HEY, IZUMI!
WAIT A SEC!
I'LL GO GET HIM.
DAMN. HE GOT AWAY.
jump
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SO START STUDYING!

OH.
IF YOU'D TOLD ME YESTERDAY, I WOULD HAVE HAD MORE TIME!
どよん
I-
?
I'M SORRY ...?
I BOUGHT FRIED CHICKEN.
I ALSO PUT IN AN ORDER OF SUSHI.
IT SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW.
WELL,
IT'S ALL GOOD! I GOT THE BIGGEST CAKE THEY HAD LEFT!
?
Thud! Shuffle!
SFX thud
OOH, OOH, LOOK!
I MANAGED TO FIND A WATER-MELON!
I CAN MAKE FRUIT PUNCH!
WH...
AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, WE CAN GET A PIZZA!
YOU BROUGHT ABOUT TEN PEOPLE OVER, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
WHAT FOR?

THAT'S NOT--
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY ?
IT'S YOUR "BIRTHDAY PARTY" ISN'T IT?
WHAT FOR ...?
rustle

DON'T TELL HIM!
TODAY IS MAY SEVENT-- HMMPH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
ぎょおっ
!!!

SFX SHOCK!

UH-OH. SO HE DIDN'T IN-VITE THEM OVER FOR HIS BIRTH-DAY?
I WENT OVER-BOARD WITH THE SHOPPING
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.
panic
panic
IT'S MIHASHI'S BIRTH-DAY?
WHOSE?
OH, A BIRTH-DAY?

I'VE INADVERTENTLY CREATED AN UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION
SO THAT MEANS...
IT'S NOT A LAUGHING MATTER!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I... GOT TOO EXCITED...
My birthday is today!
Surprised?
THIS LOOKS LIKE A SELF-PRODUCED SURPRISE PARTY...
PFFT.
BUT MY BIRTHDAY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
THAT'S...
NOT WHY EVERYONE CAME OVER
SO THAT'S WHY HE WAS MORE ASSERTIVE THAN USUAL?
WHY DIDN'T HE SAY ANYTHING?
IF YOU THINK ABOUT HIS PAST, IT MAKES SENSE.
BUT STILL...
THEN LET'S SING THE SONG!!

Then we can have cake!
And the sushi — and the chicken!
LIGHT THE CANDLES!
WE'LL ALL HAVE A PARTY!
LIM...

MOM, THANKS FOR THE FOOD....
tears
tears
OF COURSE ! AH!
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO PUT THIS HERE?
Yeah let's do it!
OH, REN...
SORRY ABOUT
Cake!
there's cake!

MA'AM, WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT WITH US, TOO?
UMM,
OH... IS THAT OKAY?
OH, STOP IT!
OW!
YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW! DON'T CRY!
HANAI-KUN IS THE TEAM CAPTAIN!
Oh that makes perfect sense!
Showing off
YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO HAVE US OVER, AFTER ALL!
OF COURSE!
He's such a nice boy!
SFX: pose
OKAY, IT'S PERFECT!

HAPPY
TO
BIRTHDAY
YOU!
READY?
ONE...
TWO...
TO
WHA
WHA
HAPPY
YOU!
BIRTHDAY
WA
WA
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
DEAR

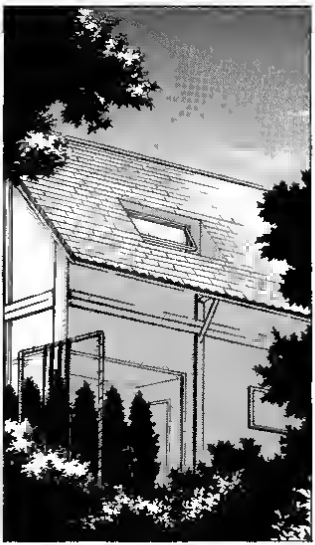
MI-
HA-
SHI-
A-
HHHH
UWAAAA~~
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO YOU-
MOOO.
CONGRATULATIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS!
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap

Let's eat!
DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE THE OLDEST OF US ALL?
I'll bring drinks too!
PLEASE DO!
OH, Let's eat!
Cheers!
drink
CAKE
IS IT OKAY TO EAT NOW ?!
LOOKS SOOO GOOD!
IT LOOKS DELI-CIOUS!
LOOKS DELI-CIOUS!
Mine's in April, too!
HAH HAH HOO.
munch
An
chew chew
YEAH.
ISN'T SUYAMA'S BIRTHDAY IN APRIL ?
munch munch
chew
WE DO THAT NOW
COULD
munch munch
Ahhh
THEY PASSED BY WITHOUT US CELE-BRATING !
HAHA!
I think I'll go help his mom!
Ugh!

WE JUST NEED TO LIGHT THEM AGAIN!
GOOD IDE
!
TO THE OTHER TWO...
excited
SING
nervous
THE SAME CANDLES OR NOT
nervous
nervous
MAY-BE USE
START WITH SU-YAMA!
ONE... TWO...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
We're singing again?!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR SU-YAMA
OH...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
So this is
LIGHT 'EM AGAIN! NEXT IS HANAI!
the team that Ren's on now...
I DON'T WANT IT!
PHOOO
clap
clap
clap
clap

chew
chew



C'mere.
MI-HA-SHI!
HNN?

HEY,
IS THAT WHERE YOU PRACTICE PITCHING?
NGF.
chew
chew
chew
chew

YEAH, I DO.
LET ME LOOK AT IT UP CLOSE

MMHMM!
MM!
YOU HAVE A TARGET THERE ON THE NET?

NO I WON'T, STUPID.
OH YEAH, LET'S HAVE EVERYONE LOOK.
Shock!
U U

I CAN'T?
EEP!

Y-YOU CAN, BUT...
YOU'LL JUST BE DISAP-POINTED...

MMM !!
The last piece of cake...
Sound words...
WHAT ABOUT STUDYING?
DON'T LICK MY PLATE!
AFTER-WARDS.
LET'S HEAD DOWN TO THE YARD.
Eh...
Uh
Lick Lick

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE...
ALL HIS TEAM-MATES UNDER-STAND THAT CLEARLY!

NOBODY HERE THINKS THAT
MIHASHI IS A "BAD PITCHER"...

BUT THAT'S...
Uh...
WAY TOO WEAK OF AN ACCEP-TANCE FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM.

NOTHING FANCY, SO...
click
...UM,
IT'S REALLY,
N-
HMM, WOW.
IT LOOKS REALLY "HOMEMADE"!
YOU'VE HAD IT SINCE JR HIGH?
I USED A—
BOARD FOR A SOFTBALL.
BUT A HARD-BALL WOULD WEAR IT OUT TOO FAST, SO—
WOW.
THERE'S SO MUCH DUCT TAPE.
DO YOU STILL USE IT?

MIHA-SHI.
HN?!
LET'S JUST SHOW THEM SOME FOR FUN
SO HE'S BEEN THROWING MORE THAN WE ALLOWED HIM?
I'LL HAVE TO SCOLD HIM LATER
AH.
JUST A LITTLE BIT...
U-UM...
WAIT A SEC, TAJIMA!
LET'S TRY IT OUT~
D'YOU HAVE A PLATE?

TAP
HERE GOES
WELL,

STRIKE !!
* SFX. Fwap!
MIHASHI, CAN I TELL YOU WHERE TO AIM?
AH...
WHERE TO AIM?
WASN'T IT THE TARGET?
UPPER LEFT!

THE 9-SECTION STRIKE ZONE!
WHOOSH
SHHHH

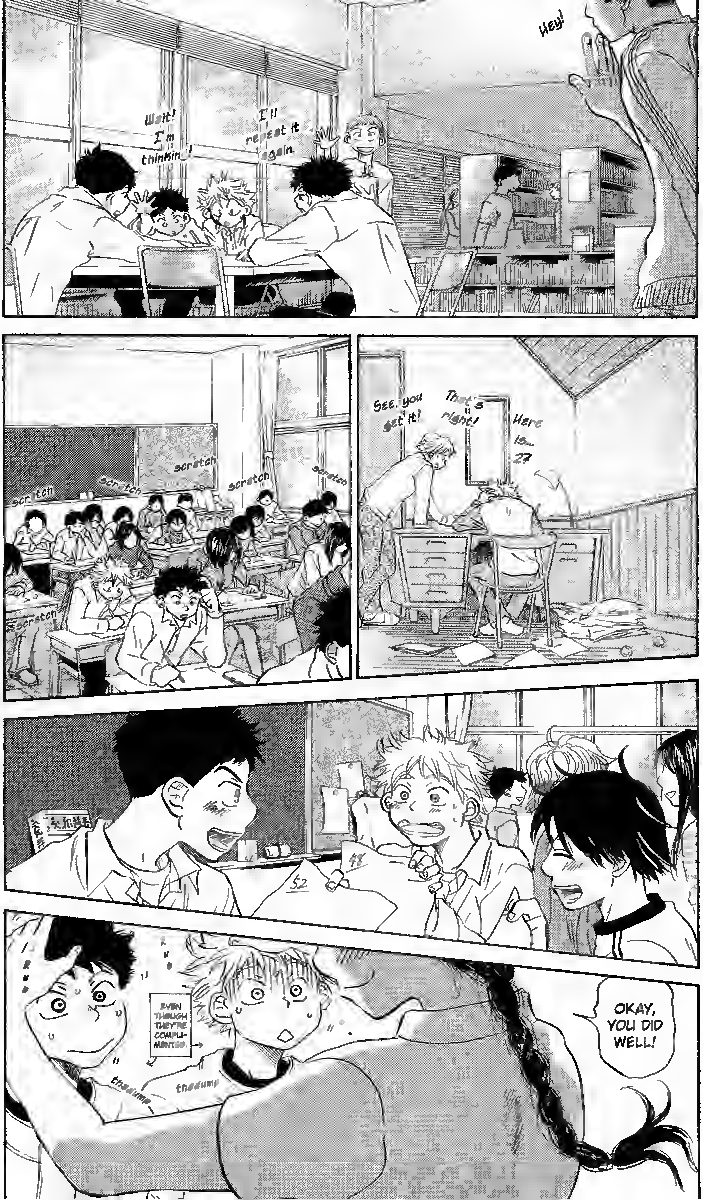
LOWER RIGHT
nod
paff
UPPER RIGHT.
pashing!
WHOA.
WHEN IT'S DIVIDED LIKE THAT IT'S SO OBVIOUS...
I'M SURPRISED
THERE REALLY ARE 9 SECTIONS!

IT'S THE RESULT OF CONSTANT PRACTICING
YOU CAN'T COPY THAT
TAJIWA
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO THAT?
Turns
MIHASHIIIII~!
LET'S GO...
TO KOU-SHIEN!!

I WANT...
TO GO!!
HE SAID IT!
I-
WOW, YOU CHANGED SO MUCH!
ON THE FIRST DAY, YOU SAID "IT'S IMPOSSIBLE" AND MOMOKAN SPANKED YOU WITH HER BAT!
UH...
Ohhh. I remember that!
I was actually pretty scared then too...
I was too!

BACK THEN,
I THOUGHT THAT I WOULDN'T CHANGE MIHASHI'S WEAK PERSONALITY.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER NOT TO.
IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT WIMPINESS OF HIS,
I WON'T LET HIM ON THE MOUND!
Part
I THOUGHT HIS PERSONALITY DIDN'T MATTER AT ALL.
AS LONG AS HE DIDN'T SHAKE HIS HEAD,
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD TO BE FRIENDS.
"I JUST WANNA PLAY BASEBALL MY WAY"...
I WONDER WHY
I THOUGHT OF A SILLY THING LIKE THAT.

I WANT TO MAXIMIZE ...
THE POTENTIAL OF EVERY-THING HE'S PUT INTO THIS.
THE TAPE'S NEW
rustle
HE'S BEEN REAPPLYING IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN
THIS IS
This
A SKULL AND CROSS-BONES, I THINK
I WANT MIHASHI ...
...TO WIN!!
LET'S STUDY ALREADY!
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THROWING.
I'LL ST IRT WITH MAKING SURE HE PASSES THOSE TESTS.
Defeat


Hey!
Wait! I'm thinkin'
I'll repeat it again.
scratch
scratch
scratch
scratch
scratch
See, you get it!
That's right!
Here is... 27
52
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE COMPLIMENTING
thaaump
thaaump
OKAY, YOU DID WELL!

JUNE,
THE SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL SAITAMA TOURNAMENT LOTTERY.
...
PHEW, EVERY-ONE'S SO HUGE.

OH MAN, MY STOMACH REALLY HURTS NOW.
I WONDER IF I CAN GO IN AHEAD OF EVERYONE?
I SORT OF WANT TO BE NEAR THE BATHROOM.
...M-
M-
ME TOO!
ALL FIRST YEARS?
NEW SCHOOL?
WHERE?
I WANNA PLAY THEM!
WE'RE ALL JUST FIRST YEARS AFTER ALL!
WE'LL GET TALLER LATER ON!
HANAI, YOU MIGHT BE TALL, BUT YOU'RE STILL REALLY SKINNY.
181cm
OH, ARE THEY?
OH,
I AM...?
WELL IT'S ONLY NATURAL!

NOT YOU, TOO!
DON'T GET DIARRHEA FROM STRESS! IT'S PATHETIC!
THUD
I- I-
N-
NO!
GOTTA GO--
IT DOESN'T MATTER, JUST GO ALREADY!!
MIHASHIIII!
SIGH
THERE'S NO MORE PAPER!
IS THERE ANY MORE AROUND THERE?
Y-YEAH!
I'M HERE!
MIHASHI, YOU THERE?

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GET SOME FROM ANOTHER BATHROOM?
O-
OKAY! I'LL GET SOME!
DASH
SUNDEGUCHI
WAAAH
WAAAH
THERE ISN'T ANY!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
OOF!
WHOA!!
*CRASH
*FALLDOWN
OOH, OUCH
HEY, WATCH IT!! THAT'S DANGEROUS!

OH, SOR...
!!!
HARUNA -SAN...?!
IT'S FINE IF YOU WERE IN A HURRY TO GET HERE,
BUT DON'T GO RUNNING OUT OF THE BA-!!
OWW!
SFX: THIIJACK!
DON'T GO SHOUTING IN A CROWDED PLACE LIKE THIS!
BUT THIS GUY, HE--!
That hurt dammit!
SOMEONE'S MAD AT MIHASHI?
AAAH, I NEED PAPER!
SEE, YOU WEREN'T EVEN HURT!
EH?

WHAT DO YOU--
HUH?
LOOK AT WHAT YOU DID TO HIM!
HAH?!
...AH, SOME-ONE INTER-VENED?
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING THAT MEAN, DID I?

HE'S HURT SOME-WHERE?!
COULD IT BE ...
SFX: UHNK?
WAH!

HIS LEFT HAND ...
...HEY!
ARE YOU OKAY?
HELLOOO~!
dance
sfx: SHUFF

ALL RIGHT, THEN
phew!
I'M
FINE!
sfx swish
DON'T RUN IN THE BATHROOM ANYMORE, OKAY?
JUMP!
beep beep beep!
peeing
Ahi-mi'm
A-
WE'RE IN THE HALL. JUST LEAVE SAKAEGUCHI AND GET OVER HERE!
ABE-KUN!
beep
beep
beep
AH!
NO!

?!
HARUNA-SAN! HE'S A GOOD PERSON!
WHAT?!
HARUNA-SAN?!
!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
AHHH!
A-AH-
WHAT? SO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

HE'S TALKING TO HARUNA -SAN?
WAH!
WHO'S ABE?
ABE-KUN
ABE -KUN IS...
...UM,
HE MEANS ABE TAKAYA ...
...
TAKA -YA?
THE TAKAYA THAT YOU WERE WITH IN THE SENIORS ..
HE'S IN A TEAM WITH US NOW.
OH, SO YOU'RE FROM NISHIURA HIGH?
SUUUGE!!
THAT'S PRETTY NEAT!
GOOD LUCK TO YOU!
uh
HEY ...
YOU'RE ONLY FIRST YEARS, RIGHT?
WHAT'S NISHIURA'S PITCHER LIKE?

Head spinning, trying to think.

... HE
IS HERE ...
I'M
NISHI-URA'S PITCHER ....
I'M THE ACE...
SFX: STAAARS
I'VE WON.
SMIRK
AH...
LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!
clap!
HE'S ...
SUCH A GOOD PER-SON!
totally entered

I-
I'LL DROP IT DOWN!
WHERE'D YOU GET IT FROM?
THAT WAS REALLY FAST.
startled
OH!
MIHA-SHI!!
PAPERRR!
WAIT A BIT.
HERE YOU GO.
SO NICE!
THERE'S NO MORE PAPER?
oh!
R-
RIGHT!
chatter
chatter
chatter
YOU WENT IN?!
THE LADIES' ROOM NEXT DOOR.
I ASKED THE PEOPLE GOING IN.
OF COURSE NOT
Respect either way!

chatter
HEY, GUYS.
chatter
W-
WOW!
SAKAE-GUCHI!
MIHA-SHI!
PLAYS BASE-BALL, TOO!
chatter
chatter
EVERY-ONE IN HERE
IT'LL BE STARTING PRETTY SOON
ABE TOLD YOU?!
SO YOU HAD DIARRHEA BEFORE EXAMS, TOO?
WHAT TIME DOES IT START?
SFX: loud music playing.
じゃーん
パラパラ
ラッ
WOW!
COOL!
gasp
OOH!

sfx: loud music
ハーン パラパラ リー ルラー ルラリラ
ルルジャン ルルジャン ポロポロ
Clouds float by,
Sunshine fills the sky
The pure white ball
Rises high into the heavens.
cha cha cha
Youths,
come forth now
ポロリロッ
Answer the call of
Jubilation
Out of the corner of your eye,

Go towards
Victory
IT'S HIGH SCHOOL
BASE-BALL!
Smiling
and hopeful
cha cha cha
cha cha cha
and the crown of glory
Will surely shine on you.
第10回／終わり

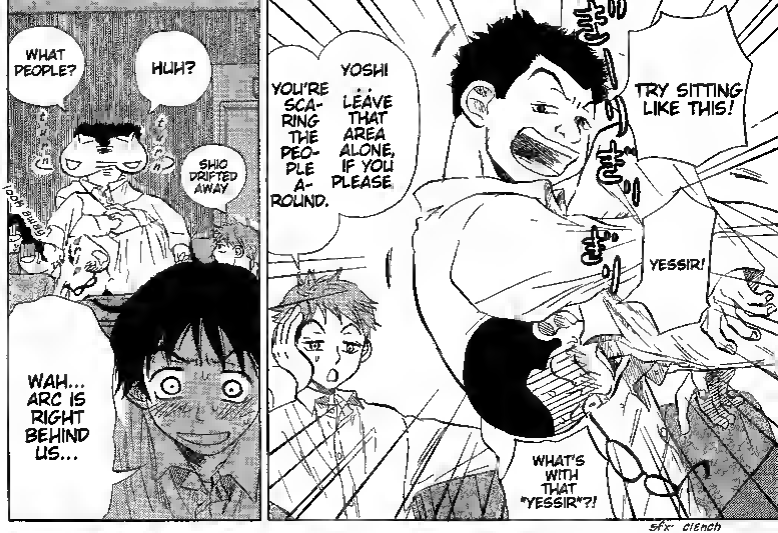
WELL THEN, LET US BEGIN THE DRAWING FOR THE PREFECTURAL STAGE IN SAITAMA!
FIRST, SEED A! THE TEAM CAPTAINS OF SENDA HIGH AND ARC HIGH SCHOOL, PLEASE STEP FORWARD! BRING THE SCHOOL NAMETAG AND THE ARRIVAL ORDER TAG WITH YOU!
DON'T TELL ME EVERYONE ON THE TEAM DID.
WHOA! THE SENDA CAPTAIN SHAVED HIS HEAD BALD!
WHERE ARE THEY SITTING?
NOT EVERY-ONE.
I GOT A MESSAGE FROM YOSHI YESTERDAY.
Types up a message, leaving a blank space for the name of their first opponent
REALLY? WHAT DID HE SAY?
"PUT IN SOME SPIRIT, IT SHOWS ON TV."
HE MES-SAGED YOU JUST FOR THAT?
GEE, WHAT AN IDIOT.
ha ha ha ha

SENDA HIGH
NUMBER 1!
SENDA HIGH, NUMBER 1!
おおっ
SFX: Whoa
第11回。
THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER

IN THE END, THEY STOLE IT FROM US.
NUM-BER 1, HUH
.....
NUMBER 170! ARC HIGH SCHOOL, NUMBER 170!
ARC HIGH SCHOOL!
.....
IT'D BE BETTER IF THE SEEDS DREW LOTS JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
WE LOST IT ALONG WITH THE SPRING FINALS.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN WHINING ABOUT THIS NOW?
I KNOW, BUT...
THE TRUTH!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
GEE, SHUT UP ALREADY!
THE CHANCES OF DRAWING NUMBER 1 HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DRAWING ORDER.
YOU KNOW ...
WE COULD MAKE THE FIRST YEARS LINE UP EARLIER, AND DRAW BEFORE SENDA.
YOU'RE SO DUMB.
HA HA HA.
IF THEY GET IT BEFORE US, WE CAN'T GET IT ANYMORE, CAN WE?
HUH? WHY?

LOOK AT OOTA! HE'S NOT MAKING ANY FUSS.
AND HE'S ONLY A FIRST YEAR, TOO. AS EXPECTED OF THE SPECIAL CLA...
THEY PISS ME OFF.
SENDA
DISSES ME OFF.
munch
IN KANTOU, THOSE GUYS DIDN'T EVEN LAST ONE ROUND.
.....
WE'VE GONE TO THE FINALS.
SO WHY ...
WHY DOES SENDA
GET TO BE NUMBER 1?!
grab
grab
grab
THEY PISS ME OFF ...
ER ...
I MEAN ... LOOK AT SHIO!
HE SUDDENLY MADE IT TO THE REGULARS IN HIS FIRST YEAR, BUT HE'S JUST CALMLY ..
ZZZZ
dozing

WAKE UP!
SLEEPING WITH HIS EYES OPEN?!
Zzzzz
sfx bam
sfx pah
AH! YOSHIDA-SENPAI!
WELCOME BACK, YOSHI.
sfx grab
sfx bam
SLEEPING AT THIS HOUR!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ?!
I MEAN, HELLO!
fix
MOR-NING!
WHAT A VOICE
sfx crash


WHAT PEOPLE?
HUH?
SHIO DRIFTED AWAY
WAH... ARC IS RIGHT BEHIND US...
YOSHI
YOU'RE SCARING THE PEOPLE AROUND.
LEAVE THAT AREA ALONE, IF YOU PLEASE.
TRY SITTING LIKE THIS!
YESSIR!
WHAT'S WITH THAT "YESSIR"?!
sfx: clench

AFTER ALL, THEY REACHED THE FINALS IN KANTOU ...
THEY SAY THAT ARC'S HARVEST THIS YEAR IS THE WEAKEST THEY'VE HAD IN A DECADE, BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
HEY, MIHASHI, HAVE YOU HEARD OF ARC?
TAKE THAT!
UGH!
nod nod
THAT THEY'RE STRONG.
THAT'S ALL I'VE HEARD.
JUST
SO THEY'RE KNOWN EVEN IN GUNMA?
WOW ...

SEE THAT GUY SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO THE AISLE? HIS NAME'S OOTAGAWA. HE'S HUGE
...DID HE ACTUALLY SEE ANYTHING?
bow
AND HE'S JUST A FIRST YEAR TOO!
thump
TURN AROUND FOR A SEC.
g...
g..
glance
bam
thump thump
HE'S BEEN PRETTY FAMOUS SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
REALLY?
IN THE KANTOU SEMI-FINALS
HIS TEAM PLAYED AGAINST THE KANAGAWA CHAMPIONS HE PITCHED FOR 3 INNINGS AND DIDN'T GIVE THE OPPONENTS A CHANCE TO SCORE A SINGLE HIT.
thump
thump
Played in the Seniors so he doesn't know much about school tournaments ↑
KANAGAWA CHAMPIONS...
NOT A SINGLE HIT
thump
AMAZING!
thump
sfx: whoa
thump
SO, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT SENDA?
KASUKABE SHIRITSU HIGH!
noise
noise
noise
I'VE HEARD THE NAME.

TOSEI HIGH!
HOW ABOUT TOSEI?
AH! LAST YEAR...
THEY WENT TO KOUSHIEN ...
YEAH, EXACTLY.
ARC LET LAST YEAR'S KOUSHIEN SLIP BY.
NUMBER 85!
TOSEI HIGH, NUMBER 85!
TOSEI WINNING CAME AS A SURPRISE TO EVERYONE.
ARC OUTRAN THEM IN THE SPRING TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR, TOO.

LET'S SEE...
SO,
SENDA AND TOUSEI SHOULD ADVANCE.
IF WE COUNT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SO WILL AGEO SANGYOU AND RANZAN.
OOIKITA IS PRETTY STRONG, TOO. THEY WOULD'VE BEEN AMONG THE SEEDS IF THEY HADN'T COME UP AGAINST ARC IN THEIR FIRST GAME IN SPRING.
thumb
thumb
thumb
KASUKABE HAS BEEN DOING PRETTY WELL. THEY'RE IN SEED B THIS YEAR.
WHAT ELSE ...
THE STOCKS OF BIJOUDAI SAYAMA AND KOSHIGAYA CHUUOU ARE ALSO...
AH, STOP. I THINK HIS BRAIN WON'T TAKE ANY MORE THAN THAT.
smoke
MUSASHINO DAI ICHI ALSO RANKED HIGH THIS YEAR!
Ahoo

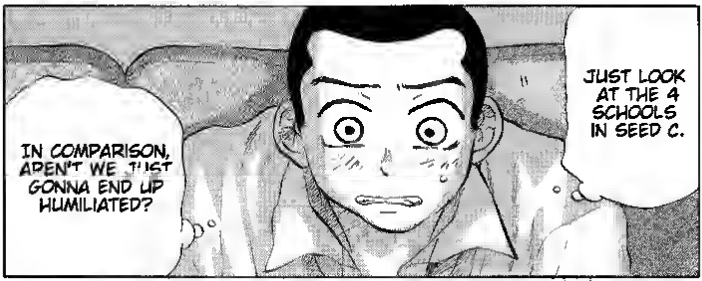
Haruna takes good care of his teeth, too. He always carries xylitol gum with him.

LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!
AND...
HE ... PATTED MY SHOULDER AND...
sfx straighten
"LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!"
AND HE SAID
TO ME!
bam
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT!
...WHAT A FOOL.
SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT AMAZING
CALM DOWN, MIHASHI.
CAN'T YOU TELL HE WAS JUST LOOKING DOWN ON YOU?!
"LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST"?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH...!

HARU-WA-SAN IS AMA-ZING!
IN HIS CASE, I HAVE TO WATCH OUT SO THAT HE DOESN'T WORK TOO HARD.
HE'S AMU-SING TO WATCH, BUT
REALLY WEIRD TOO
COMPARED TO MIHASHI,
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO WORK HARD.
LIKE YOU COULD WIN WITH YOUR 80 PITCHES.
OH WELL
THEN WATCH NISHIURA CLIMB UP, THANKS TO THE PITCHER YOU LOOKED DOWN ON TODAY!
GO AND LOSE QUICKLY.

WE ENDED UP IN THE SAME BLOCK AS ARC.
NUM-BER 128!
MUSA-SHINO DAI ICHI HIGH
MUSASHINO DAI ICHI HIGH
NUM-BER 128!
AREN'T THEY ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE CHART?
YUP.
A... ARC?
WE WOULDN'T FACE THEM UNTIL THE SEMIFINALS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK WE COULD ..
HUH?

IT'S TRUE THAT IN THE SPRING TOURNAMENT WE LOST TO ARC IN THE QUARTER-FINALS
BUT THE RESULT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME AGAINST ANY OTHER SCHOOL IN THE BEST 8.



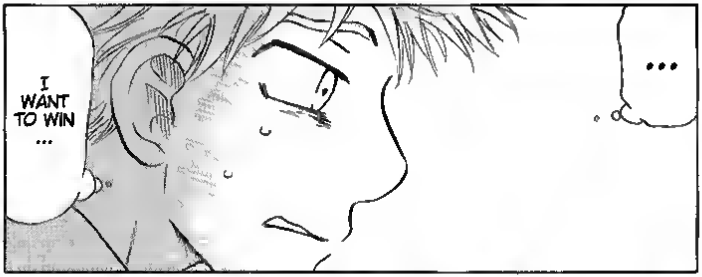
On the prefectural level of the Summer Tournament, seed C is reserved for the schools that advance from the Seed B in the Spring Tournament

SO WHAT IF IT WAS EMBARRASSING?
WE MAY BE NO MATCH FOR THEM IN SKILL, BUT IF WE GIVE IT OUR BEST, THAT'S ENOUGH.
WE LEARNED THAT FROM HARUNA.
IF 3 INNINGS ARE ENOUGH, I CAN PITCH AGAINST CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING OPPONENTS!
LAST WINTER, WASN'T I THE ONE WHO WORKED THE HARDEST?
MY WEIGHT HAS INCREASED BY 6 KG SINCE THAT TIME.
CLENCH
ALRIGHT!
LET'S AIM FOR THE SEMIFINALS!

!!!
ドキドキ
IN THAT CASE, SHOULDN'T YOU RATHER SAY, "LET'S AIM FOR KOUSHIEN?"
sfx: thump
TEAM CAPTAINS FROM THE SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVED NUMBERS 1-30 ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF ARRIVAL, PLEASE COME TO THE FRONT.
BRING THE SCHOOL NAME TAG WITH YOU.
Kouyou-ma-kun!
What's wrong?
MAYBE I'M JUST NOT AMBITIOUS ENOUGH...
FINALLY THE SEEDS ARE OVER
ONE OF THE SCHOOLS WE'VE PLAYED A PRACTICE GAME AGAINST WOULD BE THE BEST
BUT IT'S 7 OUT OF 170, SO...
HEY
WHO DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?

I WANT TO PLAY AGAINST A TEAM THAT HAS AN AWESOME PITCHER!
FAT CHANCE...
#127 WOULD BE NEAT! DRAW #127!
ISN'T THAT MUSA-SHINO?
127?
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY AGAINST SEED C ALL OF SUDDEN.
YOU'RE MOST LIKELY TO DRAW THE STUFF YOU DON'T WANT.
HUH?
Why me??? It'll be easier later!
I BET YOU'VE NEVER HAD ANY LUCK IN DRAWS.
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
Don't say such things to people when they're about to draw lots...
THERE ARE SO MANY SCHOOLS
YOU'RE A NASTY GUY, ABE.
THAT I DON'T KNOW.
HUUH?!
YOU'RE HORRIBLE, ABE.
HUH?

SO MANY PLAYERS THAT I DON'T KNOW.
I BET THERE ARE ALSO MANY AWESOME PITCHERS I DON'T KNOW.


...
I WANT TO WIN ...

WIN ...
AND TASTE THAT AMAZING FEELING AGAIN.
TEAM CAPTAINS OF THE SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVED NUMBERS 91-120, PLEASE COME TO THE FRONT!
BRING THE SCHOOL NAME TAG WITH YOU.

I WON'T!
DON'T GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE BAD LUCK IN DRAWS!
GOOD LUCK!
I'M GOING!
ALRIGHT!
Stands up
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE GOOFING AROUND!
DAMN YOU, ABE. IS HE HAVING FUN OR WHAT?
If I were Sawaguchi, I'd be shitting my pants right now
SO ALL THESE GUYS ARE CAPTAINS
PHEW
MISATOICHI HIGH NUMBER 92!
NUMBER 92!
...WELL, I GUESS DRAW DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CONCENTRATION.
ALRIGHT.
FIRST, STAND IN THE LINE ...
I BET EVERY-ONE'S HAVING HARD TIME...
...OH

National High School Baseball Championship
Saitama prefecture
WHOA ...
CLOSE UP, IT'S AWFULLY HUGE!
170 SCHOOLS IS THIS MANY! ...
AFTER THE FIRST ROUND
badum
THIS NUMBER WILL BE CUT IN HALF.
sfx: stretch
AFTER THE SECOND ROUND - 1/4.
OOIKITA HIGH!
NUMBER 100! OOIKITA HIGH, NUMBER 100!
AFTER THE THIRD ROUND - 1/8...
IF WE END UP AMONG THE TEAMS THAT PLAY THEIR FIRST GAME IN ROUND 2, THAT'S ONE ROUND FOR FREE
ELIMINATING POSSIBILITIES ... THE MIDDLE OF A BRANCH ...
59, 60,
118,
TOKOROZAWA KOURYOU HIGH!
154 OR 160!
ONE OF THOSE 5...
THE SEEDS MIGHT BE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED
BUT EVEN SO, A LOT WILL DEPEND ON WHERE WE START.

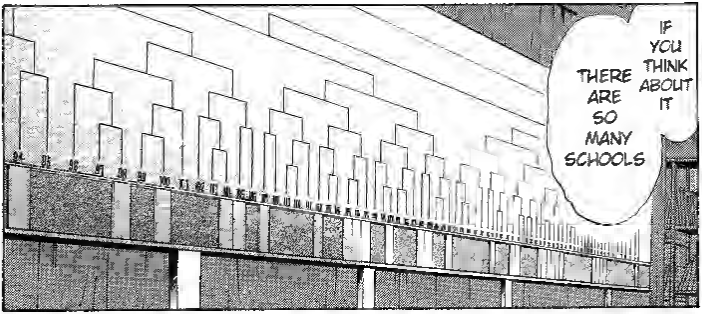
NISHI-URA HIGH!
YOUR TAG, PLEASE.
OH.
THANK YOU. PLEASE DRAW A LOT.
sfx: thump
sfx: thump
sfx: thump
sfx: thump

NISHIURA HIGH, NUMBER 84!
sfx: WHOA!
NUMBER 84!

clapping
clapping
clapping
clapping
clapping
clapping
WHA...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS IS THE "THANKS" APPLAUSE.
HANA! ...
THANKS FOR WHAT?
HE DREW TOSEI!!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO DRAW LAST YEAR'S WINNING SCHOOL ON YOUR FIRST APPEARANCE?!
WE'LL W-DO OUR BEST...
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT LOSING YOUR FIRST GAME?
THIS IS NISHIURA HIGH'S FIRST TOURNAMENT, ISN'T IT?
WE'LL DO OUR BEST ...!!
WE'LL ...
UHH ...

AH, GEEZ ...
HANAI'S BEEN TOTALLY SURROUNDED.
SO THIS IS IT, EH?
SIGH
OUR FIRST YEAR IS A FIRST ROUND LOSS.
EH?!
*grab
NO GIVING UP!
OW OW OWWWW!
SQUEEEEZE
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
UH, HI!
HI.
SHE READ MY MIND!

WE CAN'T WIN ...
...
WE
IT'S LAST YEAR'S WINNER.
HEY.
HEY!
BE-CAUSE

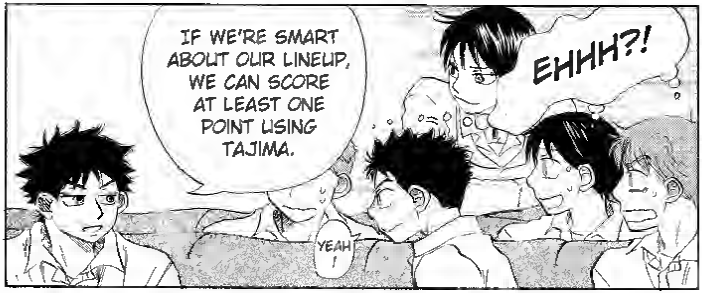

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT
THERE ARE SO MANY SCHOOLS

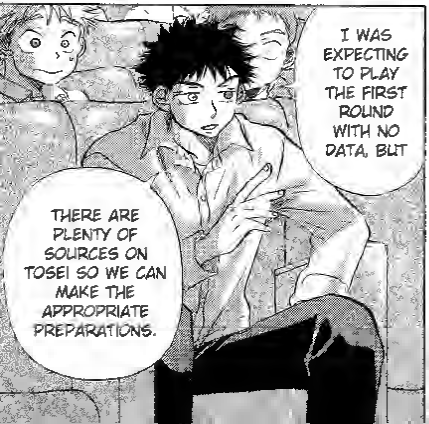
Last year's winning school——
RE-AL-ITY IS SO HARSH ...

Everyone really, really wants to win...
I... I WANT TO WIN TOO, BUT...

SHOULDN'T WE WIN?
WHAAAAAAT?!
WE'VE WON ALL OUR GAMES SO FAR!
EVEN IF WE'VE WON ALL OUR GAMES SO FAR, IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE BEATABLE EVEN WITH ONLY FIRST-YEARS.
THEY'RE ALL THE TYPE TO LOSE IN THE FIRST ROUND, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN TOSEI.
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY THINK THAT?!
JUST OPTI-MISTIC?
OR DOES HE SEE SOME-THING WE DON'T?
IS HE STUPID? OR IS HE REALLY THAT GOOD!?

OF COURSE NOT!
ARE YOU GIVING UP TOO, ABE?


IF WE'RE SMART ABOUT OUR LINEUP, WE CAN SCORE AT LEAST ONE POINT USING TAJIMA.
EHHH?!
YEAH!


I WAS EXPECTING TO PLAY THE FIRST ROUND WITH NO DATA, BUT
THERE ARE PLENTY OF SOURCES ON TOSEI SO WE CAN MAKE THE APPROPRIATE PREPARATIONS.

YOU TOOK VIDEOS OF ALL THE SPRING COACH, TOURNAMENT GAMES BEGINNING WITH THE QUARTERFINALS, RIGHT?
YEP!
I took days off from work to go!

WOW ...
AMAZ-ING ...
WE'LL DECIPHER THE HABITS OF THE BATTERY AND THE HABITS OF THE BATTERS,
AND AS LONG AS WE DON'T MAKE ANY WEIRD ERRORS ON THE FIELD...
...
ふっ
THIS GUY WILL HOLD THEM AT ZERO!

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO DO BEFORE THAT.
EHHH ?!
WE'LL GO WITH THAT!
I SEE ...
WHA-
WH-
WHAAT ?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
HEY, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "STRONG" TEAM AND A "WEAK" TEAM...
MAYBE THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS ?
OR MAYBE .
BUT EVEN IF THEIR GROUNDS ARE SMALL, A STRONG TEAM IS A STRONG TEAM.
THEIR FACILITIES MAYBE?

THE TEAMS WE SAY ARE "STRONG"
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S THE AMOUNT OF PRACTICE.
SPEND LOTS OF TIME PRACTICING.
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF "QUALITY OVER QUANTITY" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
...
THE TOURNAMENT WILL START WELL BEFORE WE'VE GOTTEN EVERYTHING DONE.
IF WE CONTINUE WITH THE PRACTICE TIMES WE HAVE NOW,

WE DON'T HAVE OUTSIDE LIGHTS,
BUT DID YOU KNOW?
THIS TIME OF YEAR,
IT'S LIGHT OUT EVEN AT 4:30 AM!
4:30 AM...!!
*Nooo
*Phew
BUT THE TRAINS DON'T RUN AT 4:30, SO...
LET'S MEET AT 5 AM!!

9 PM !!
COUNTING CLEAN UP TIME, LET'S END AT 9 PM.
IT WON'T BE THE SAME AS OTHER SCHOOLS WHO GIVE ALL THEIR AFTERNOON CLASS TIME TO THE CLUBS,
THERE AREN'T MANY OF US SO
SHE'S SERIOUS !
MOMOKAN'S SERIOUS ABOUT THIS!
I THINK FROM 8AM-9PM WE'LL HAVE TIME TO WORK ON BOTH OFFENSE AND DEFENSE.
WE'RE ALL SITTING DOWN DURING SCHOOL HOURS.
DOESN'T MOMOKAN'S JOB REQUIRE A LOT OF PHYSICAL LABOR?
WE'RE DOING THIS FOR OURSELVES, BUT....

ONCE WE WIN AGAINST A SEEDED TEAM, IT'LL BE A LOT EASIER AFTERWARDS, SO
ニヤッ
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER, OK?
Yes, ma'am!
I THOUGHT THAT NISHIURA WAS A SOFTBALL SCHOOL.
I GUESS NOW THEY'RE HARD-BALL.
AH, I SEE.
SO THIS YEAR'S THEIR FIRST TOURNA-MENT.
WE'RE GONNA BEAT THEM SO BAD ...!
THEY'VE GOT 3 YEARS AHEAD OF THEM
SO THEY'LL JUST TAKE THE FALL THIS TIME AROUND, I GUESS.

WE'LL BE USING THE REGULARS,
AND OUR ACE WILL BE PITCHING.
GIVE THE REGULARS PRIORITY, BUT FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE RESERVES
WE DON'T NEED A FULL BENCH; WE CAN JUST GO WITH THE 2ND STRINGERS.
IT'S THE FIRST GAME OF THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT.
THE OTHER REGULARS MAYBE, BUT JUNTA WON'T HAVE TO PITCH....
IT'S STILL THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT.
BUT WE'RE GOING TO PREPARE FOR THIS YEAR THE SAME WAY WE DID LAST YEAR.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF ILLUSION YOU'RE UNDER,

THOSE GUYS WEREN'T A BAD TEAM AT ALL.
BUT THE TEAM THEY LOST TO
WAS ELIMI-NATED IN THE 2ND ROUND!
THE 3RD YEARS SHOULD UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE TWO YEARS AGO
WE HAD TO WATCH AS OUR TEAM LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND.
Clench
Clench
HN.
I'M NOT SCARED!
WHAT-EVER!
TOO SCARY FOR YA, FIRST-YEAR?
owww ww!
HA HA HA!

AS LONG AS WE DON'T FORGET THIS IS THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT,
IT'LL BE FINE!
---!
WE'RE THE ONES WHO'LL WIN....!

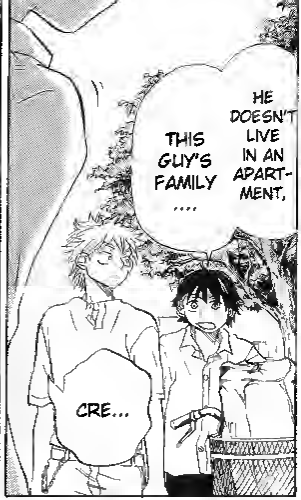
I WONDER IF I CAN KEEP UP...
CHK CHK
CHK CHK
MOMO-KAN'S SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
GRAB
GIV-ING! UP!!!
NO!
AIGH!
YEAH.
MI-HASHI!
BADUMP
IF YOU CHICKEN OUT,
NISHIHIRO'LL HAVE TO REPLACE YOU AS A STARTER!
Nearly gave me a heart attack!
... THE HELL, TAJIMA!
NO WAY!
CHK CHK
CHK CHK

JUST GETTING BACK FROM THE DRAW?
HOW'D IT GO?
UM WERE THERE A LOT OF PEOPLE
LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONS, RIGHT?
Whoa, really?!
WHO'S THAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I MEANT, WHICH TEAM ARE YOU GOING UP AGAINST?
TOSEI HIGH SCH-OOL.
OH ....
IT'S HAMADA! HEYYY!
OH!

HEY IZUMI.
OH,
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
YO, TAJIMA!
IT'S HAMADA, FROM OUR CLASS!
tap
MI-HASHI ...
... SAY,
BUT HE'LL REMEMBER YOUR FACE FROM CLASS.
MIHASHI MAY BE A COM-PLETE MORON,
... UM...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, DO YOU?
YOU ....
OH, SERI-OUSLY?
HIS HOUSE WASN'T IN OUR DIS-TRICT.
FROM GRADE SCHOOL.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
NO ...
I DO TOO!
CLANG

WELL IF HE KNEW YOU
THEN HE'D KNOW ME, TOO.
From the same grade school and junior high
BUT THEY MOVED IN 2ND GRADE, SO HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN YOUR CLASS.
I THINK MIHASHI LIVED IN THE SAME APARTMENT BUILDING AS WE DID,
BUT I CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER...
RUSHING CREEK VILLA.
BA DU MP

BA
CREAK-ING RUST VILLA!


HE DOESN'T LIVE IN AN APART-MENT,
THIS GUY'S FAMILY ....
CRE...

THAT'S IT! CREAKING RUST VILLA! I KNEW IT!
WHA?

CREAK-ING RUST VILLA!
SO WE CALLED IT
YEAH
THE PLACE WAS IN BAD SHAPE?
YAY! IT'S ALL CLEAR!
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK ABOUT THAT EVER SINCE SCHOOL STARTED!

BUT, WHY A SMALL APARTMENT WHEN YOU HAVE SUCH A BIG HOUSE NOW?
THAT BUILDING MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 40 YEARS OLD!
6 tatamis, that's about all that will fit
MY FAMILY ...
IT'S BE-CAUSE,
UMM,
WHAT DO
THEY'RE THE ELOPING COUPLE!
OH YEAH! YOUR PAR-ENTS!
I NEAR-LY FOR-GOT.
OH....
THERE WAS A RUMOR GOING AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT THEY WERE!

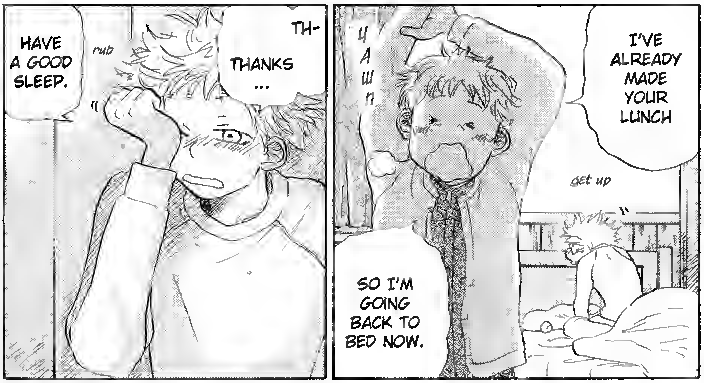
I GOT DISTRACTED TALKING ABOUT CREAKING RUST VILLA, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME OVER.
CAN I
FORM AN OUENDAN FOR THE BASEBALL TEAM?

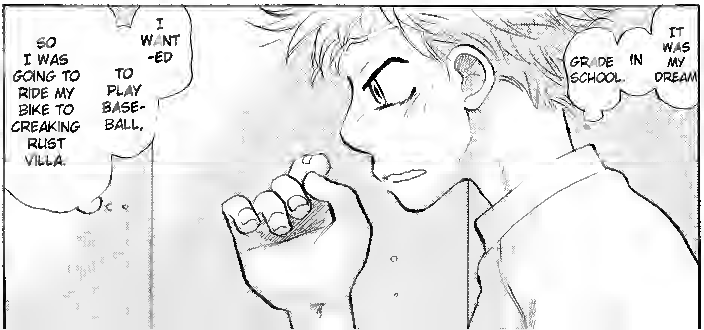
Translator's note: Ouendan literally translates to "cheering squad" but in order to make the distinction between Japanese high school style "cheer squad" and American "cheerleading" it will not be translated. Unless something goes horribly wrong, he will not be forming a human pyramid

IN 2ND GRADE,
WE MOVED FROM CREAKING RUST VILLA INTO THE BIG HOUSE WE LIVE IN NOW,
SO I HAD TO CHANGE SCHOOLS
OH...
EI-THER
hmm
I DIDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS TODAY
rattle
OH-!
?!
BONK!
I WISH I COULD GO BACK
TO CREAKING RUST VILLA.
I don't have enough guts to talk to them...
...
tears
AH...
THROW IT MORE CAREFULLY!

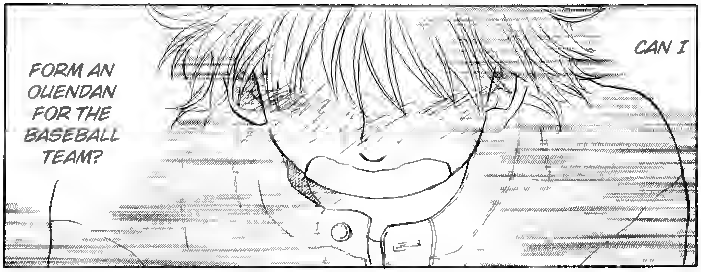
THAT'S WHERE
ALL OF MY BASEBALL FRIENDS
ARE.

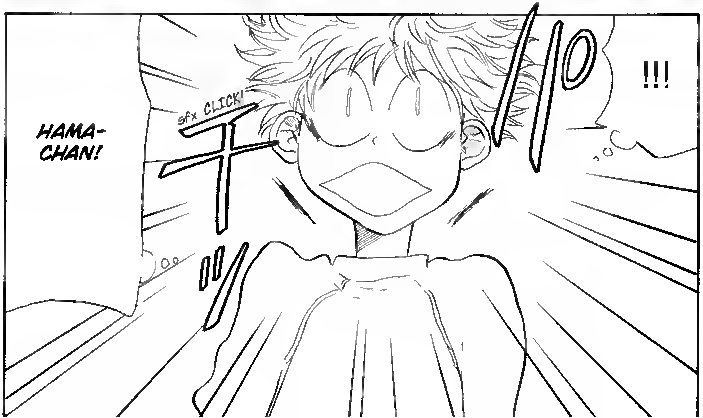
REEEN!
shake
shake
IT'S TIME TO GET UP...
"no!"
HUH?
sfx ri ri ri ri ri ri ri ri (alarm clock)


HAVE A GOOD SLEEP.
rub
TH-
THANKS ...
YAWN
I'VE ALREADY MADE YOUR LUNCH
get up
SO I'M GOING BACK TO BED NOW.


IT WAS MY DREAM
IN GRADE SCHOOL.
I WANT-ED TO PLAY BASE-BALL.
SO I WAS GOING TO RIDE MY BIKE TO CREAKING RUST VILLA.

I WENT FARTHER AND FARTHER
UNTIL IT STARTED GETTING DARK ....
BUT I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO GET THERE

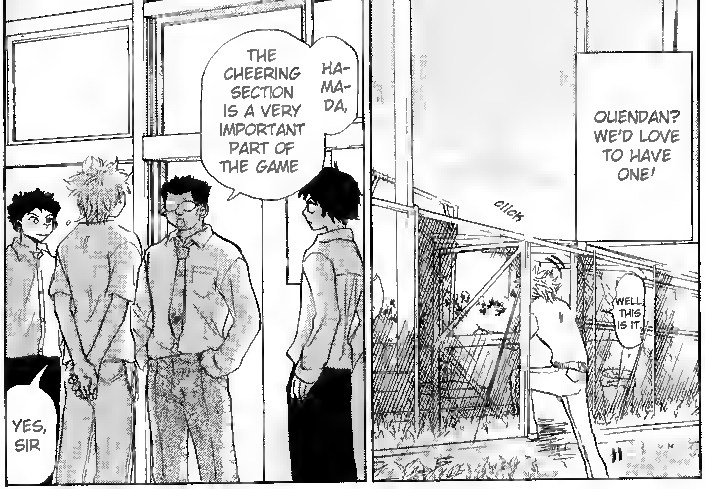

FORM AN OUENDAN FOR THE BASEBALL TEAM?
CAN I

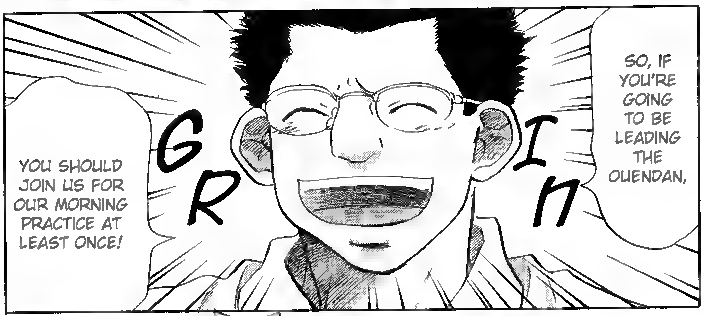

HAMA-CHAN!
SFX CLICK!
!!!

MIHASHI, YOU'RE A GOOD BALL-BOY!
YOU FIND THEM IN NO TIME!
Here, you can use this one!
BUT IF YOU BROUGHT A GLOVE, YOU'D HAVE MORE FUN.
...I DON'T
... HAVE A GLOVE ....
sfx: paff

HAMA-DA-KUN
IT'S TOO SMALL FOR ME AND I JUST GOT A NEW ONE,
SO YOU CAN HAVE THAT ONE!
IS ACTUALLY HAMA-CHAN!

I FOUND
HAMA-CHAN AGAIN!
Clench
HE WAS ALWAYS THE COOLEST ONE.
HAMA-CHAN!
SFX: tridge
AAAAAH


HA-MA-DA,
THE CHEERING SECTION IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE GAME
YES, SIR
OUENDAN? WE'D LOVE TO HAVE ONE!
click
WELL, THIS IS IT.

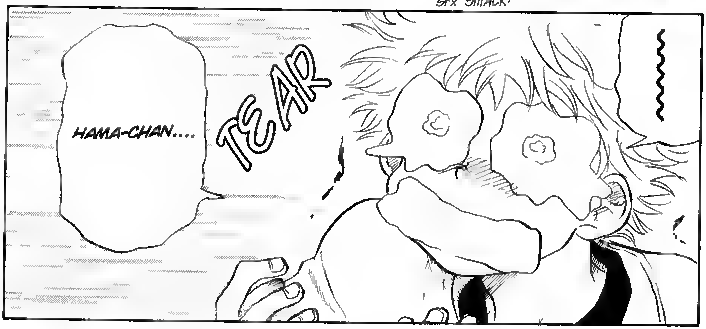

SO, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LEADING THE OUENDAN,
GRIN
YOU SHOULD JOIN US FOR OUR MORNING PRACTICE AT LEAST ONCE!

JUMP
GOOD MORNING!
...AND THEN I SAID I'D SHOW UP.
YAAAAWN

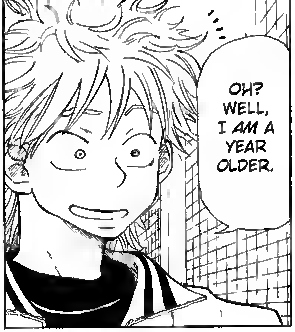
BOW!
GOOD MORNING!
Bow! Bow!
UM, YEAH.
OH, HAMADA! YOU CAME!
Yo!
YOU CAME WEARING THAT?
HANG ON, SORRY.
YEAH- NO,
JOINING US FOR MORNING PRACTICE, EH?
OH, YOU'RE THE GUY FROM YESTERDAY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UMM... SAME THING YOU GUYS DID.
OH! IS THAT HAMADA?
HE'S GOING HOME?
GOOD MORNING!
Bow
Enters properly

WHOA
YOU-
YOU KNOW ME?
WELL, I'M GOING TO BE LEAD -ING THE CHANTS,
SO I GOTTA KNOW YOUR NAMES AND STUFF!
Ooh
AHA!
IT'S HANA!
Hey!
BADUMP
THE BATTERY IS MIHASHI AND ABE!
I KNOW EVERY-BODY! STARTING FROM FIRST BASE, THERE'S
OKI,
SA-KAE-GUCHI,
TAJIMA,
SUYA-MA,
MIZU-TANI,
IZUMI,
NISHI-HIRO,
AND...
Wow!
Amazing!
Even me!
badump badump
grind
grind
trickle
scrub
scrub
They're using shoe brushes to polish the balls
YANK
IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT IT, THEN JUST GO SAY HI!

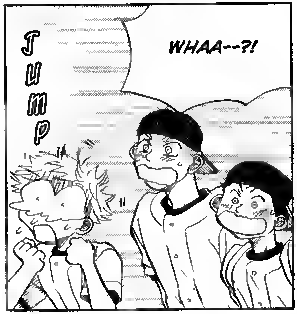
WHAT'S UP, MIHA-SHI?
Ouch
?!
WHA-
wobble
wobble
SFX: THROW
Heu.
WAH!
OOF!
YOU CAN CALL ME HAMA-CHAN
LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS
THAT SOUNDS WEIRD!
HA-
HA-MA-DA-KUN
...
.....


SFX: SMACK!
HAMA-CHAN....
TEAR

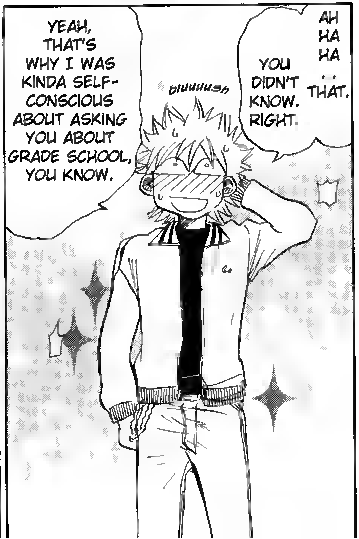
AFTER BEING IN CLASS TO-GETHER EVERY DAY?
WHAT, ONLY NOW?
ha ha ha
MEMO-RIES
...
THAT ...
BRINGS BACK ...
drip
drip

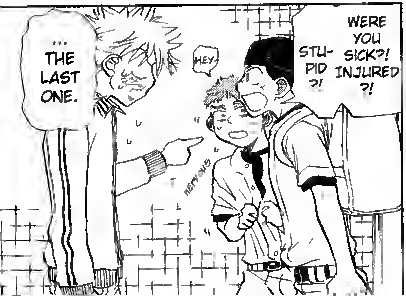

OH? WELL, I AM A YEAR OLDER.

WOW, YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER ME AT ALL.
BUT, I...
HAMA-CHAN
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GRADE ABOVE ME.


JUMP
WHAA--?!

YLIP!
YOU GOT HELD BACK ?!

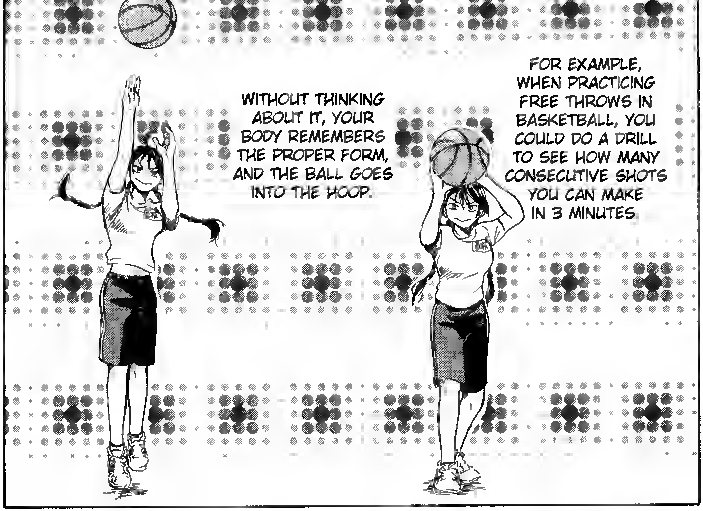

YEAH, THAT'S WHY I WAS KINDA SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT ASKING YOU ABOUT GRADE SCHOOL, YOU KNOW.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW. RIGHT.
AH HA HA... THAT.

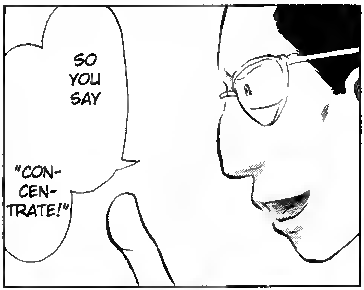

... THE LAST ONE.
HEY.
STU-PID ?!
WERE YOU SICK?! INJURED ?!

I WAS TOLD THE SAME THING
I... I HAD ...
FOR TEN YEARS.
MI-HA-SHI!
WE BETTER WATCH OUR BACKS, HUH,
GRAB
OH, ANOTHER STUPID ONE, EH??
AS LONG AS YOU STUDY TOGETHER, YOU WON'T FAIL.
IT'S COOL
SAYING THAT TO A SENPAI
HE'S NOT KID-DING.
TOGE-THER, HAMA-CHAN.
I HAD SO MUCH FUN WHEN WE PLAYED BASE-BALL
HE COULDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS...!
A LIE!!
THAT'S ...
ANYONE I COULD PLAY BASE-BALL WITH...
AT MY NEW SCHOOL, THERE WASN'T
AT ...

ONE TIME, I TRIED GOING BACK TO CREAK-ING RUST VILLA!
WHOA, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!
WHEN WAS THIS?
BUT THE PLACE WAS GONE AL-READY!
Boom
IT GOT DEMO-LISHED
MIHASH! !!
URGH
THAT ..IS WHY ...
I WAS PITCH-ING BY MY-SELF... BUT...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HAMA-CHAN?
...
GATHER AROUND!
IT'S TIME!

bow!
Y-
YES, SIR!
HAMADA CAME!
IT MAY NOT MAKE SENSE AT FIRST, BUT TRY TO KEEP UP WITH US.
OH!
TODAY WE'RE GOING TO START WITH MEDITATION AGAIN!
Yes, sir!
"RELAXING" AND "CONCENTRATING" ARE..?
They're the same!
The same thing!
The same!
HM. SINCE HAMADA IS WITH US TODAY, WHY DON'T WE REVIEW A LITTLE?
DOES EVERYONE REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT THE FIRST TIME WE DID A MEDITATION EXERCISE?
RIGHT!
WE TALKED ABOUT HOW "RELAXING" AND "CONCENTRATING" ARE THE SAME THING FOR AN ATHLETE.


WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT, YOUR BODY REMEMBERS THE PROPER FORM, AND THE BALL GOES INTO THE HOOP.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN PRACTICING FREE THROWS IN BASKETBALL, YOU COULD DO A DRILL TO SEE HOW MANY CONSECUTIVE SHOTS YOU CAN MAKE IN 3 MINUTES.


SO YOU SAY
"CON-CEN-TRATE!"

SO YOU END UP USING TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE POWER.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO GAME TIME, YOUR BODY DOESN'T FOLLOW THE PROPER FORM.
AND THEN YOU MISS YOUR FREE THROWS, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BLOCK OUT YOUR SURROUND-INGS.

? ?
BUT AT A TIME LIKE THAT, BY SAYING "CONCENTRATE," YOU'RE ACTUALLY TELLING YOURSELF TO "RELAX."

WHEN YOUR HANDS AND FEET ARE TREMBLING FROM NERVOUSNESS,
WON'T IT BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO "RELAX"?
BUT!
THE TRUTH IS, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MAKE YOURSELVES RELAX!

THE HANDS BECOMING WARM
PROVED YOU WERE RELAXED.

WE'VE BEEN DOING SENSATION MEDITATION FOR ABOUT A MONTH NOW
EVERYONE WAS SITTING IN A CIRCLE
AND IT ONLY TOOK ABOUT FIVE MINUTES FOR YOUR HANDS TO BECOME WARM.

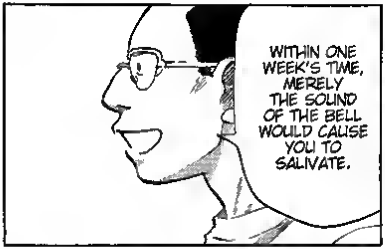
IN SHORT, YOU WERE ABLE TO CONSCIOUSLY RELAX IN FIVE MINUTES!
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE DISCUSSED THIS BEFORE, BUT...

WHAT IS IT?
EVEN IN FREE THROWS
AND DURING A BASEBALL GAME,
ISN'T FIVE MINUTES TOO LONG FOR CALMING ONE'S NERVES?
GOOD TIME TO BRING THAT UP!
THERE-FORE...
YES!
AT THOSE TIMES,
TAKING FIVE MINUTES TO BECOME RELAXED WHEN YOU ARE NERVOUS IS IMPRAC-TICAL.
WE MUST LEARN TO RELAX INSTINC-TIVELY!
NOW THEN! WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT?
... UM

SO THEN .... NO, WAIT ....
SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE.
COME ON, SAY IT, SAY IT!
"WE CAN CONDITION OURSELVES TO RELAX," ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU SAID?
YES!
THERE ARE NO USELESS OPINIONS!
.... RIGHT.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT ...
THEN ...
CAN'T YOU CONDITION YOURSELF TO THE INITIAL REACTIONS OF "PANIC" OR "RELAX"?
NO,
Smile
YOU'VE GOT VERY GOOD IDEAS!
ER, NEVER MIND, I'M PROBABLY WRONG!
Sunban
OHHH ?

IT MIGHT SEEM A LITTLE UNNATURAL, BUT THAT IS WHAT I MEAN BY "CONDITIONING."
LET'S TAKE AN EXAMPLE.
OF COURSE,
Dammit, why does it seem like he's mocking me?

I'LL EXPLAIN AFTER-WARDS
BUT, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A BELL RANG EVERY TIME YOU WERE GOING TO EAT UMEBOSHI?
THANK YOU


WITHIN ONE WEEK'S TIME, MERELY THE SOUND OF THE BELL WOULD CAUSE YOU TO SALIVATE.

IF YOU WERE GOING TO EAT UME-BOSHI, YOU'D BEGIN TO SALI-VATE
THIS IS YOUR BODY'S NATURAL INSTINCT WHEN ANTICIPATING THE TASTE
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD HE'S SAYING

THAT'S "CONDI-TIONING."
Just the mention of umeboshi has already caused the conditioned salivating response
drool
drip
drip
AND SO,
ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN TASTE AND HEARING, THE SOUND STIMULATES YOUR SALIVARY GLANDS.

"CONDI-TIONING"
MEANS CREATING AN ARTIFICIAL LINK BETWEEN ORIGINALLY UNRELATED CHOSEN EVENTS.
ONE THING FOLLOWS ANOTHER - THAT'S WHAT YOU LEARN TO THINK, IN SPITE OF THE LACK OF NATURAL CONNECTION.
SO ...
ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY,
IF WE CAN GET THIS CONDI-TIONING THING THROUGH,
WE WON'T GET NERVOUS ON THE FIELD ANYMORE?

EH?
I MEAN ...
ER ...
WHEN WE'RE IN A PINCH DURING A GAME AND OUR BODY REFUSES TO MOVE ...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH ...
OR?

INDEED.
NUMBNESS IS NOT A NATURAL REACTION TO A CRISIS ON THE FIELD.
IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU'RE ASKING WHETHER IT'S POSSIBLE TO USE CONDITIONING TO ALTER HABITUAL REACTIONS?
ER ... I ... GUESS ...?
mumble
mumble

GIVING A DETAILED EXPLANATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING,
SO I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE CONCLUSION
YOU CAN DO IT!

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU WERE TO RUN IN A MARATHON, YOU COULD LEARN TO RELAX AT THE SIGHT OF THE SCENERY ACCOMPANYING THE MOST DIFFICULT LAST 35 KM.
35 KM
IF YOU WERE TO PLAY IN A LEAGUE MATCH,
YOU COULD DO THE SAME WITH THE UNIFORMS OF THE OPPOSING TEAM. ONE LOOK WOULD HELP YOU CALM DOWN AND RELAX.
HOWEVER,
TEACHING SOMEONE TO RELAX IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN TEACHING THEM TO DROOL AT THE MERE SIGHT OF SPECIFIC FOOD.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?

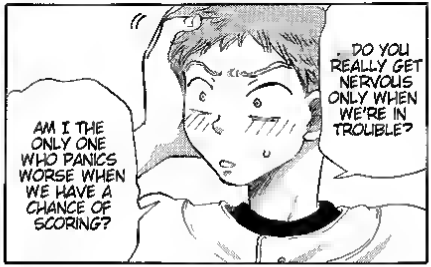
BUT HOW ABOUT THIS? "TAKE THE HAND OF THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND RELAX FOR 5 MINUTES."
ALL OF YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THIS BY NOW. THIS IS OUR ITEM!
RELAXATION IS NOT CONNECTED WITH A SPECIFIC ITEM LIKE UMEBOSHI.
I THINK I UNDER-STAND.
IT'S TRUE THERE'S NO CONCRETE, MATERIAL ITEM NATURALLY CONNECTED WITH RELAXATION.
THAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF PRACTICING MEDITATION FOR THIS PAST MONTH.
EX-ACTLY!

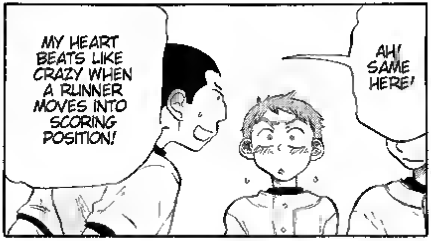
YES SIR!
LET'S PUT THE TIME WE HAVE LEFT UNTIL THE FIRST GAME TO A GOOD USE AND FINISH OUR TRAINING!
ALL RIGHT THEN!

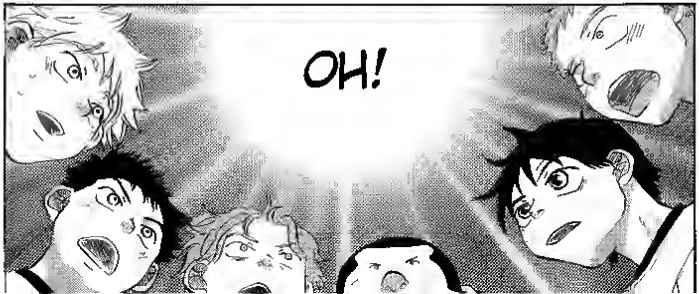
...what?
BY THE WAY,
WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE OUR CONDITION FOR RELAXING?
IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING AS CONCRETE AS POSSIBLE
SOMETHING YOU CAN SEE, HEAR OR TOUCH ...
MAYBE ...
...A BASE-BALL STADI-UM?
WHAT WE'RE GOING TO AIM FOR IS LEARNING TO RELAX AUTO-MATI-CALLY
AS SOON AS ONE OF YOUR FIVE SENSES CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF THAT THING,
IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING DEFINITELY PRESENT IN A SITUATION THAT MAKES IT ESSENTIAL FOR YOU TO CALM DOWN.
Hmm... Something concrete... See.
THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT STADIUMS, TOO.
THAT'S TOO GENE-RAL

BESIDES,
YOU DON'T GET NERVOUS JUST BY LOOKING AT A STADIUM.
I SEE.
SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO "REPAINT" A SITUATION THAT MAKES US FEEL NERVOUS...
WHAT'S ALWAYS THERE WHEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE DURING A GAME...?

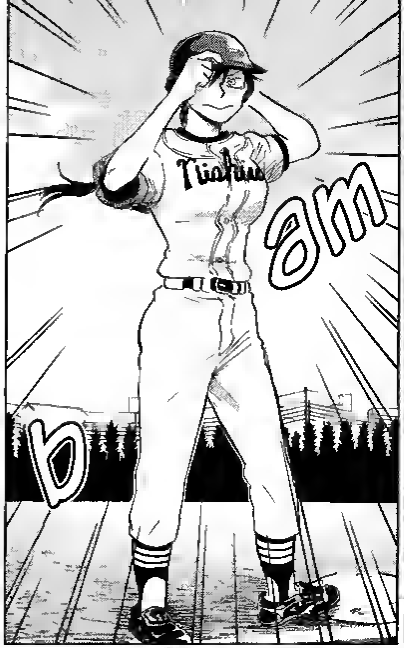
BUT IT'S THE SAME WHEN WE'RE THE ONES IN TROUBLE!
A RUNNER IN SCORING POSITION IS ALWAYS...


DO YOU REALLY GET NERVOUS ONLY WHEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE?
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO PANICS WORSE WHEN WE HAVE A CHANCE OF SCORING?


AH! SAME HERE!
MY HEART BEATS LIKE CRAZY WHEN A RUNNER MOVES INTO SCORING POSITION!


OH!

THEN ...
WHAT MAKES EVERYONE ANXIOUS IS A RUNNER ADVANCING TO SECOND AND FURTHER?
BE IT A CHANCE OR DANGER,
THE SITUATION ON THE FIELD IN BOTH CASES IS THE SAME!
SECOND IS NOT THAT BAD.
WHAT REALLY MAKES YOU COWER IS A RUNNER ON THIRD!
For real!
Yes yes that's it!
Seeeee
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S TRY MAKING "RUNNER ON THIRD" OUR CONDITION!
YES!



TODAY, WE'LL START BY ASSUMING A CHANCE OF OUR TEAM SCORING!

LOOK AT THIRD BASE!

LET'S MOVE CLOSER TO THE BATTER'S BOX.

COACH IS RUNNER ON THIRD.

When did she ...?!

PFFT

JOIN HANDS WITH THE PEOPLE STANDING NEXT TO YOU.

LOOK AT THE RUNNER.

THIS TIME, WE'LL BE MEDITATING AT THIS SPOT.

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TRY TO RECALL THE IMAGE OF THE RUNNER ON THIRD TO YOUR MINDS.
SPIKES DIGGING INTO THE BASE.
THE RUNNER TAKING A 2-3-STEP WALKING LEAD ...
AT FIRST, YOU MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE IMAGINING THE SCENE VIVIDLY.
START BY TAKING A GOOD LOOK AT COACH.
THEN TRY CLOSING YOUR EYES.
IF YOU FEEL YOUR HEARTBEAT BECOMING FASTER AND YOUR HANDS GROWING COLDER, ERASE THE IMAGE.
GO BACK TO THE USUAL BODY-BASED MEDITATION.
IF YOU CAN STAY RELAXED WHILE KEEPING THE IMAGE IN MIND, CONTINUE LIKE THAT.
BIND THE PICTURE OF THE RUNNER AND THE FEELING OF RELAXATION TOGETHER.

BREATHE THE WAY WE'VE LEARNED TO.
TAKE A DEEP BREATH.
HOLD IT FOR A MOMENT.
BREATHE OUT SLOWLY ...

chirp
chirp
tweet
NOW!
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!
WE'RE STARTING THE WARM-UP!
Nishiura
Clap

HAMADA-KUN?
YES!
UWAH!
...
YES!
IT'S OVER ...?
YOUR PHYSICAL CLOCKS ARE STILL SLEEPING AT THIS HOUR!
MAKE SURE TO WARM UP MORE CAREFULLY THAN USUAL!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ONE OF THE PLAYERS.
sigh
WAS THERE ANY POINT IN MY BEING HERE?
NICE TO MEET YOU!
MY NAME IS MOMOE.
I'M COACHING THIS TEAM.
Smile
...UH.
I'M HAMA-DA.
I'D LIKE TO AR-RANGE SUPPORT ...
I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
UM ...
JUST NOW, THIS WAS MENTAL TRAINING, WASN'T IT?
phew

I BELIEVE YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD THIS FROM SHIGA-SENSEI, BUT
SUPPORT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT
YES?
AHHA
one two
three four
five six
seven eight
I DID IT TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE, BUT MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE...
HAMADA-KUN.
IT CAN LIFT THE SPIRIT OF THE PLAYERS
Y
YES

DESTROY IT IN A BLINK OF AN EYE!
HOWEVER, IT CAN ALSO...

I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T...
...THEN WHO?
I WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
...
DOKIN

sfx: Shudder

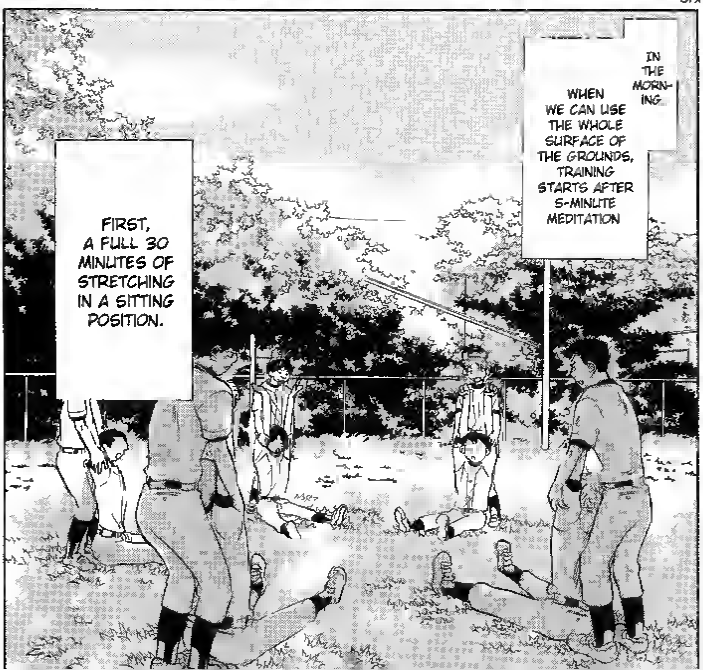
sfx: Stressstch

WHEN DO PEOPLE LET OUT A SIGH?
WHEN ...
THEY'RE DISAPPOINTED WITH SOMETHING, I THINK.
EXACTLY
AND THE ONES WHO END UP MOST DISAPPOINTED ARE USUALLY THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN PUTTING THE GREATEST EFFORT INTO CHEERING
ouch
ouch
ugh
Stretching only until it starts to hurt.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR SIGHING PARENTS.
THAT'S IT.
THEY END UP SIGHING IN DISAPPOINTMENT MORE OFTEN THAN OTHERS?
GASP
AH
THE ONES CHEERING MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY ARE THE PLAYERS' PARENTS SO
PLEASE KICK THEM OUT!
IF YOU FIND ONE,
BFX: clench
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
Squee
IT WAS A JOKE, A JOKE!
UM
OH, WHAT AM I SAYING

THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MENTAL TRAINING!
GRIP
THIS WOMAN ...
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO PUT ON A POSITIVE ATTITUDE REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION ON THE FIELD...
AND PASS IT ON TO THE AUDIENCE!
SFX: SQUEEZE
DO YOU UNDER-STAND ..
WHAT I'M SAYING?
UWAH
UWAH, SOMEHOW
SHE'S SERIOUSLY TRYING TO WIN AGAINST...
...LAST YEAR'S REPRESEN-TATIVES...!

WHY AM I SUDDENLY FEELING SO EXCITED?!
YES!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
SFX: SQUEEZE


IN THE MORNING,
WHEN WE CAN USE THE WHOLE SURFACE OF THE GROUNDS, TRAINING STARTS AFTER 5-MINUTE MEDITATION
FIRST, A FULL 30 MINUTES OF STRETCHING IN A SITTING POSITION.

AT THE SECOND ONE, THEY USE THE OLD MACHINE TO HIT A 130 KM/H FASTBALL.
AT THE FIRST TRAINING POINT, THE BOYS TAKE TURNS TO PRACTICE HITTING A LEFT- AND RIGHT-HANDED SLIDER, USING THE NEW MACHINE
AFTER WARMING-UP AND SETTING UP TWO GAUGES, FREE BATTING PRACTICE FOLLOWS
WE TRIED USING WOODEN BATS FOR TRAINING PURPOSES,
BUT IT WAS NO USE, THE BALL WOULDN'T FLY.
SHAKE
SHAKE
BUT I CAN'T GET THE OLD ONE TO THROW ONE THAT WOULD BECOME A STRIKE
ACTUALLY, I'D RATHER HAVE THEM USE BOTH MACHINES TO PRACTICE HITTING SLIDERS.
SFX: CLANG
THIS SETTING HASN'T CHANGED SINCE APRIL.

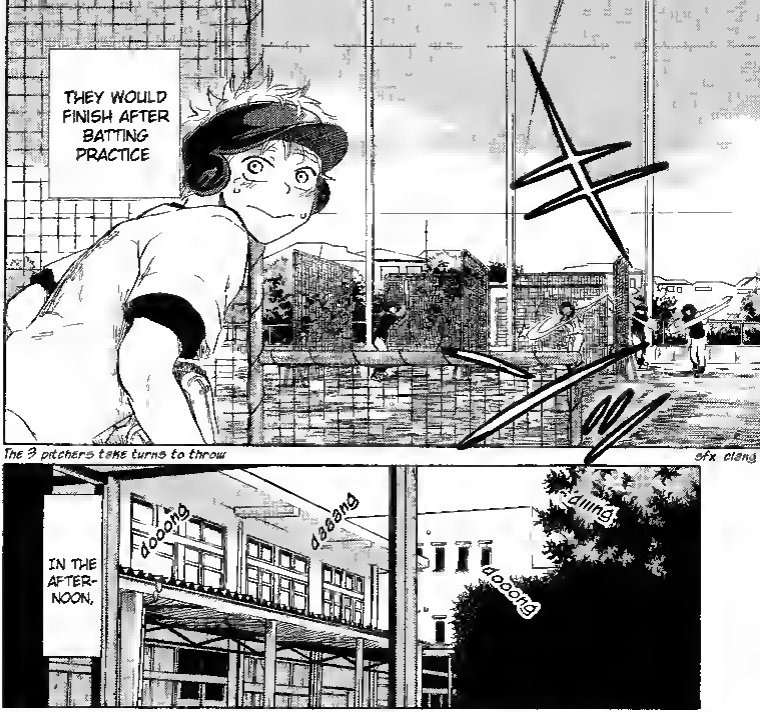
I CAN'T RUSH THINGS!
IF TRAINING STOPPED BEING FUN, IT WOULD ALL COME TO NOTHING.
lick

THERE'S NO DEFENSE DURING THE FREE BATTING PRACTICE
clang
PICKING UP 400 BALLS AFTER TRAINING IS NOT AN EASY JOB.
SFX thud
PLAYERS WAITING FOR THEIR TURN AT BAT PRACTICE SWINGING, TRYING TO MEET THE TIMING OF THE MACHINE

FRONT OF RIGHT FIELDER!
sfx: clissang
RAISING THE LEVEL OF TRAINING ON HIS OWN. HE'S SERIOUSLY AMAZING...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY INTO IT AGAIN...
LATELY, HE'S BEEN SENDING THE BALL WHEREVER HE WANTS TO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
AT THE PITCHER'S FEET!
sfx: clang
sfx: clang
THIRD BASE!
thud

CENTER HIT!
SFX clang
CENTER HIT!
CENTER HIT!
SFX clang, smack
EVERYONE HITS UNTIL THEY'RE SATISFIED.
BATTING SHIFT TIMING IS NOT ARRANGED.
CENTER HIT!
...
CENTER HIT!
SFX whoosh

THEY HIT BALLS,
THEN HIT MORE BALLS
sfx: clang
sfx: whack
AFTER THAT,
THE LAST THING THEY WOULD DO IS SWING AT A BALL FROM THE PITCHER
WHEN THERE WERE ONLY 30 MINUTES LEFT, THEY WOULD PUT AWAY THE OLD MACHINES
sfx: swing
WITH THE NEW MACHINE, THEY WOULD EACH TRY HITTING 5 FASTBALLS SET AT 140 KM (ABOUT 87 MPH)
thud


THEY WOULD FINISH AFTER BATTING PRACTICE
The 3 pitchers take turns to throw
sfx clang

IN THE AFTER-NOON,
dooong
daaang
dooong
rolling

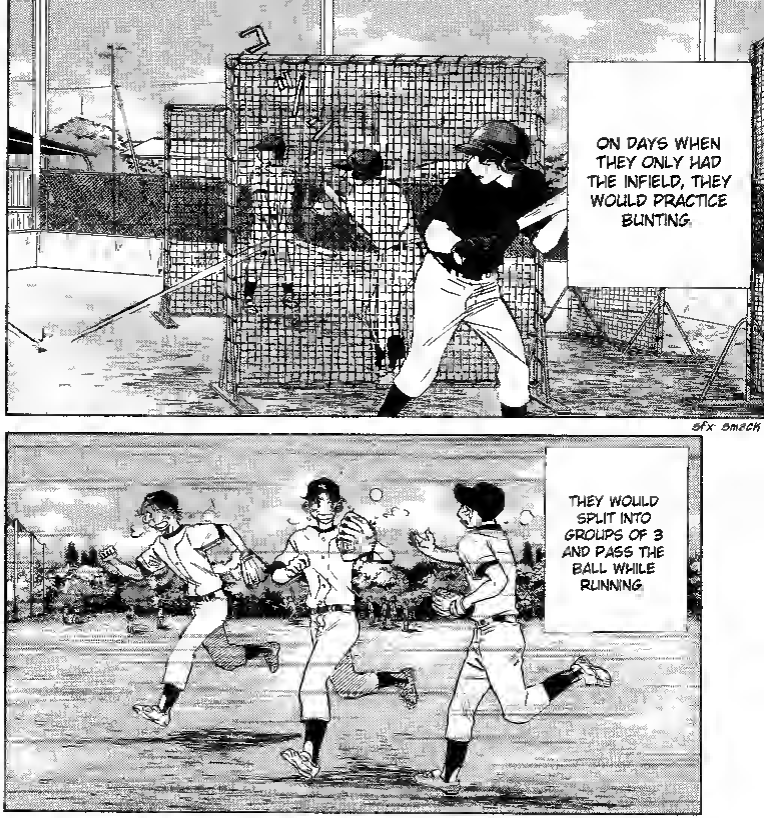
AFTER WARM-UPS,
here!
catch!
THEY WOULD SPEND HALF AN HOUR CATCHING AND THROWING

They have to memorize the numbers on the outside while looking at the number in the middle
1 AND 2, 5 6, 3?
THEY WOULD USE THE PANELS TO TRAIN THEIR FIELD OF VISION
flip
flip
flip
flip
flip
spin
spin
MIDDLE IS 3! 8, 7, 2, 1!

THEN, EVERYONE WOULD TAKE THEIR FIELDING POSITIONS...
AND MEDITATE WHILE IMAGINING A CRITICAL SITUATION.

sfx. slide

THEY WOULD PRACTICE PLAYING AGAINST BASE RUNNERS
ON THE DAYS WHEN THE GROUNDS WERE OPEN,
YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE!
THINK IF THERE WAS A WAY TO AVOID IT!
THERE, SECOND POINT TAKEN!
AFTERWARDS, PRACTICE WOULD CHANGE DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH OF THE GROUNDS WERE AVAILABLE THAT DAY.
HEY, EVERYONE!
We'll help with practice!
I BROUGHT RUNNERS WHO ARE FASTER THAN 6 SECONDS!


ON DAYS WHEN THEY ONLY HAD THE INFIELD, THEY WOULD PRACTICE BUNTING.
SFX: SMACK
THEY WOULD SPLIT INTO GROUPS OF 3 AND PASS THE BALL WHILE RUNNING.
GAHH!
Catch!
How know, if you don't throw the ball somewhere hard to catch, we won't get any practice...
UH...
WHOA!
THEN THEY WOULD PRACTICE MAKING TOUGH CATCHES BY TOSSING THE BALL AWAY ON PURPOSE.
TO TOUCH THE BALL THIS WAY OR ANOTHER.

GOOD JOB, EVERYONE!
BY THE TIME IT GOT DARK, EVERYONE WOULD BE EXHAUSTED, BUT...
trudge
trudge
huff
huff
WAHA!
EVERYONE WOULD BE REVIVED BY A SNACK OF 2 ONIGIRI EACH
gulp gulp
Ahhh
munch
munch
munch

CAN YOU GUYS REALLY GET THROUGH ANOTHER MONTH AND A HALF OF THIS?
THIS AMOUNT OF PRACTICE IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE PREFECTURE!
THEY WOULD MOVE TO PLACES THAT WERE LIT UP,
THE PARK-ING LOT!
WHERE ARE WE GOING TODAY?
AND CON-TINUE PRAC-TICING

Lottery ~ Summer Tournament → Month and a half

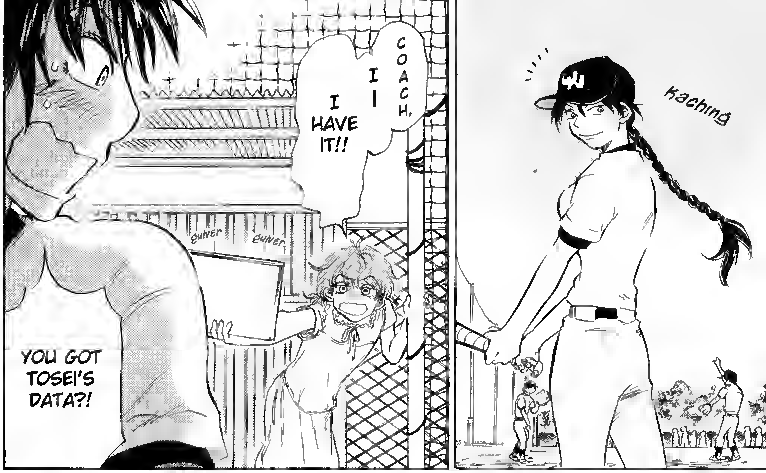
I CAN ONLY MASTUR-BATE ONCE A DAY!
GETTING TIRED IS STILL GETTING TIRED!
ONCE YOU GET OUT THERE, IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
"prick"
"prick"
I GET TIRED FROM JUST DOING BASE RUNNING FOR YOU GUYS!
DON'T BE STUPID,
BUT IT'S PRETTY FUN!
I START THINKING, "I CAN'T WAIT TO GET ON THE FIELD."
※ There is always a meeting on the first day of the week.

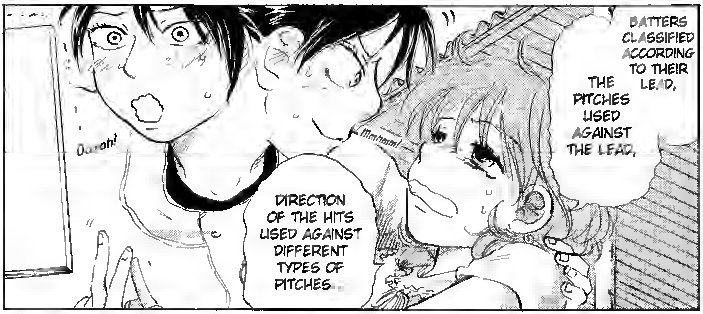
WHAT DO YOU DO AFTER YOU EAT THE ONIGIRI?
LOTS OF STUFF.
munch
munch
munch
munch
ER... REALLY?
THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN PLAY BASEBALL AND ACTUALLY LIKE PRACTICING!
slurp
OH YEAH, WHEN I WAS IN JR. HIGH, I HATED TO PRACTICE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE
sip
KIDS ARE SO INNOCENT AND PLAYFUL...
GEEZ,
I KNOW!
FREEZE TAG IS THE BEST!
pinch
pinch
EEP!
shaky
SOME-TIMES SKATE-BOARD,
DO JUMP-ROPE OR STRETCH-ES...
OR GO ON THE JUNGLE GYM, OR PLAY FREEZE TAG!
shaky
YEAH!
WE BET ON WHO GETS TO PICK THE NEXT DAY'S ONIGIRI FLAVOR!
WHAT? WE WORK HARD EVERY DAY!
The proteins have all become "regular."

Today's fried shrimp!
What else are you eating today?
BUT IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH EASILY.
drool
drool
THAT MAY BE TRUE,
YEAH, I GET IT.
MAYBE IT'S THAT "IF YOU MAKE IT FUN, THEY'LL PRACTICE LONGER" PSYCHOLOGY?
THEY MAKE IT A GAME TO GET ONIGIRI AND A BALANCED TRAINING MENU...
YOU CAN'T WEIGHT-TRAIN FIRST YEARS THOUGH.
sfx grip
HAMADA-KUN!!
ALL RIGHT, FINISHED!
snap
I HAVE TO STAY POSITIVE, TOO!
DAMMIT...
squeeze
brush
WHAT'S WITH THAT WOMAN, ANYWAY?!

OOH!
LET'S SEE IT!
WOW !!
rattle
HOLD IT ON THE OTHER END!
THAT'S SO COOL, HAMADA!!
Banner Text: Challange!
Ushiura High School Baseball Club, Saitama

sfx: flap
wobble
wobble

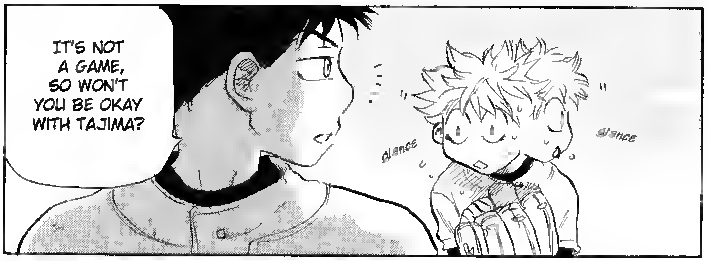

COACH, I I HAVE IT!!
YOU GOT TOSEI'S DATA?!
kachink


BATTERS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR LEAD,
THE PITCHES USED AGAINST THE LEAD,
DIRECTION OF THE HITS USED AGAINST DIFFERENT TYPES OF PITCHES

THE LOCATION OF EACH BATTER'S STANCE,
THE PITCHES THEY LET PASS,
THE BALL COUNTS THEY SWUNG ON,
THE BALL PLACE-MENT,
THE ACTUAL COURSE OF THE BALLS THEY HIT AND THE DIRECTION OF THE PITCH...

What's wrong with Shinooka?
IT'S ENOUGH!!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
hug
I'M SORRY... IT TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD TO SPLIT THE STRIKEZONE INTO 4 FROM THE HOME VIDEO....

Caption
→YES!←
TAJIMA-KUN, YOU'RE IN THE BULLPEN TODAY!
LET'S GO ANALYZE THIS DATA!!
HANA!-KUN, ABE-KUN!
I'LL BE OK,
I JUST NEED TO REST FOR HALF AN HOUR ...
I'LL MAKE ONIGIRI AFTER.


IT'S NOT A GAME, SO WON'T YOU BE OKAY WITH TAJIMA?
silence
silence

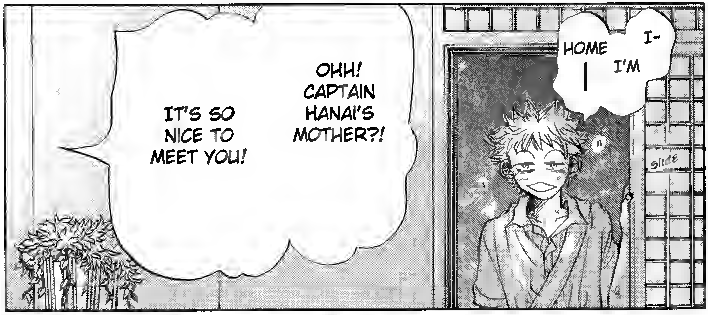
SHOW ME WHAT?
I'LL LOOK.
I'D SHOW YOU
THOUGHT
TODAY, I
YOU'VE PRACTICED PITCHING BY YOURSELF BEFORE ANYWAY.
TH-
TH-
TH-
HUH?
THAT'S NOT IT
I'LL DO IT NOW!
?
run
I
AH...!
L-LOOK!
jog
THAT LOG...!
sfx grab
Lift
I CAN ...
NOW,

*sfx: pose
YOU...
sfx: startled
DO THIS WHEN YOU GET HOME AFTER 9 PM?!
So, how is it?
HE HE HE HE
HEH...
tap
DO YOU ...
HE HE...

*sfx: noogie noogie
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU--!!!
EEEEEED!
N-
NOT AT HOME!
CLASS-ROOM!
DURING BREAK TIME
shake
shake
TSK
WE'RE GOING TO WIN AGAINST TOSE!
AND MAKE THIS GUY FAMOUS!
COACH! LET'S BEGIN!!
YEAH!
HE
GOT MAD ...
HE WASN'T MAD AT YOU.
THERE WASN'T ANGER IN HIS VOICE.
uu ...

*sfx
ta-dase
...AH.
I FEEL BETTER NOW.
1
THE NUMBER 1 ON YOUR BACK HAS FADED, SO YOU'VE LOST CONFIDENCE!
I'LL WRITE IT AGAIN!
R-REAL-LY?
squeak
squeak
TH-
THANKS...
WHEN I HEAR THEIR CONVERSATIONS, I GET REALLY TIRED SOMETIMES...
I FEEL LIKE I LOSE ALL MY STRENGTH.
I'm already used to it!
OH, I AM? HAHA!
TA-JI-MA-KUN IS SO AMAZING!
IT'S AMUSING, BUT..
Yeah! I can pitch with no signs!
Throw a breaking ball with no signs! That way is more fun!
I GOT IT, I GOT IT!
crring!
crring!

beep
HELLO,
THIS IS THE MIHASHI RESIDENCE!
GOOD EVE-NING!
THIS IS THE MOTHER OF HANAI AZUSA OF THE BASEBALL TEAM!


I-I'M HOME
slide
OHH! CAPTAIN HANAI'S MOTHER?!
IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU!

HE TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD A REALLY GOOD MEAL AT YOUR HOUSE!
I'M GO-ING
OH, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL! I'M TERRIBLE AT COOKING!
TO SHOW-ER...
trudge
IT WAS JUST SOME THINGS I BOUGHT!
ANYWAY! AZUSA-KUN IS SUCH A NICE BOY!
wobble

PHEW ...
THAT FELT SO GOOD..
drip
steam
drip
steam
drip
.... HUH?
buzz
buzzz
buzzz
I WENT THERE!
THE PARKING LOT'S SO SMALL!
S-
STILL ON THE PHONE ...
AH, MY SON IS HOME NOW!
I'M HOOOME. IS THE BATH READY?
RECENTLY HE GETS HOME AT AROUND 10 PM.
MOM ...
DIN-NER.
Shiiiide
AFTER HE EATS AND TAKES A SHOWER, HE FALLS ASLEEP ALMOST RIGHT AFTER!
WHAT ABOUT REN -KUN?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU SO LONG!
OH, NO!
I'M SORRY, TOO!
YES, MY SON ALSO ...
OH, MY!
HE WAS AWAKE UNTIL NOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE FELL ASLEEP...
SEE YOU AT THE OPENING CEREMONY!
YES!
SEE YOU THERE!

rattle
HI, HI.
HANAI-KUN'S MOTHER, HMM?
SHE SEEMED REALLY NICE!
IT SEEMS LIKE ...
HE'S GOTTEN A LITTLE STRONGER.
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL, SAITAMA SUMMER TOURNAMENT
OPENING CEREMONY. TOMORROW!
dash
I HAVE TO CHARGE THE CAMCORDER!

shuffle
shuffle

Shuffle
Shuffle
Shuffle

SENPAAAI!
AH!
HEY, SHINOOKA!
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE LOTTERY!

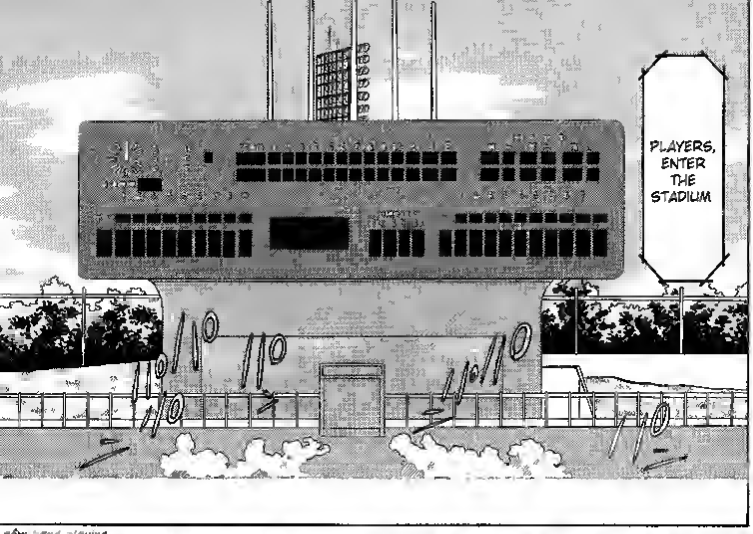
LOOK!
MY LEGS AND ARMS ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT SHADES!
IT ALL GETS WASHED AWAY BY WATER AND SWEAT.

OOH, YOU REALLY TANNED!
SO DID YOU!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SUNSCREEN YOU PUT ON, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK...

I DID!
DID YOU BRING A HAT?
IT'S A SPORTS TAN ALL RIGHT!
MY LITTLE HAT...

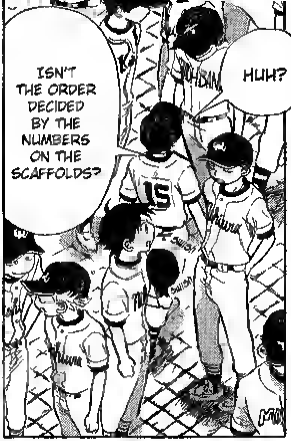
..YOU REALLY LIKE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL, HUH, SHINOOKA?
YOU WERE SO GOOD AT SOFTBALL.
HEHEHE!
SO,
HMM?
HAVE YOU GOT A "FAVORITE" OUT OF ANYONE YET?
WH-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT?
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME, ALL I'LL SAY IS "HUH."
SOOOO, IS HE COOL?
EH...
EVERY-ONE'S REALLY COOL..
* trumpet sound
You goody-two shoes!
SQUEEZE
ISSH THE TROOF!
SQUEEZE
toot

sfx: tre la la tre la la da da daaa—basically the band playing


PLAYERS, ENTER THE STADIUM

sfx: band playing
FINALLY!
YEAH! EVERYONE'S MOVING FORWARD!
AH, IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE STARTING NOW
WHERE'S TOSEI, ANYWAY?
Nishiura

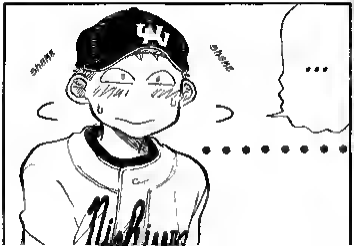
TOSEI IS LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONS, SO WON'T THEY BE CARRYING THE FLAG AT THE VERY FRONT?
SHOULDN'T TOSEI BE BEHIND US?


HUH?
ISN'T THE ORDER DECIDED BY THE NUMBERS ON THE SCAFFOLDS?

YOU SEEM PRETTY RELAXED ABOUT IT
I WAS WONDERING WHERE TOSEI WAS, TOO.
OH, I GET IT!

ARE YOU SCARED?

THE FRONT, HUH?
WE'LL BE PRETTY FAR, THEN.


SHAKE
SHAKE
...

ME NEITHER!
EH?
WE'RE PLAYING A TEAM WAY BETTER THAN US.
WHY AM I NOT AFRAID?!
I HAVE A NUMBER 1 ON..
MY GAME UNIFORM, TOO!
HEE HEHEHE!
IS TAJIMA RUBBING OFF ON ME...?
THE MENTAL TRAINING WORKED...?
2
1
4
HEE

NUM
Don't run around so much
Ryou you got the hits wrong again?!
HEHE HEHE!
NUMBER ONE NUMBER ONE
I'M
NUM-BER 1, TOO!
OH,
HE'S THAT SCHOOL'S NUMBER 1
1
1
1

sfx twitch

TURNED INTO NUMBER 2?!
But my head feels the same
Didn't it have your name on it?
THAT GUY...
14
2
5

What is it?! Is it too hot?
SO NOISY!
1

EHH ?!
sfx FLAP

One
surprised
shake
I'M FINE
?
DOES IT HURT SOME-WHERE?!
Nishiura
shake
OKAY!
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE SO DON'T TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF...
TH-
Nishi
SFX players shouting "One!Two!" while marching
ONE!
TWO!
ONE!
TWO!

sfx players continuous yelling of "One! Two!" and marching steps

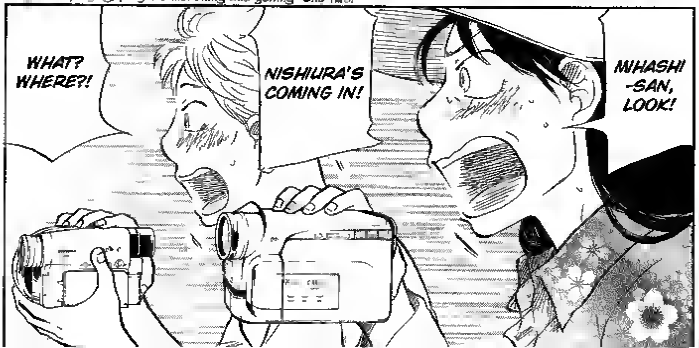
sfx clap

sfx. marching players "One! Two!"

sfx. marching

sfx. "One! Two!One!Two!" marching steps

sfx. band playing, players marching and yelling "One!Two!"



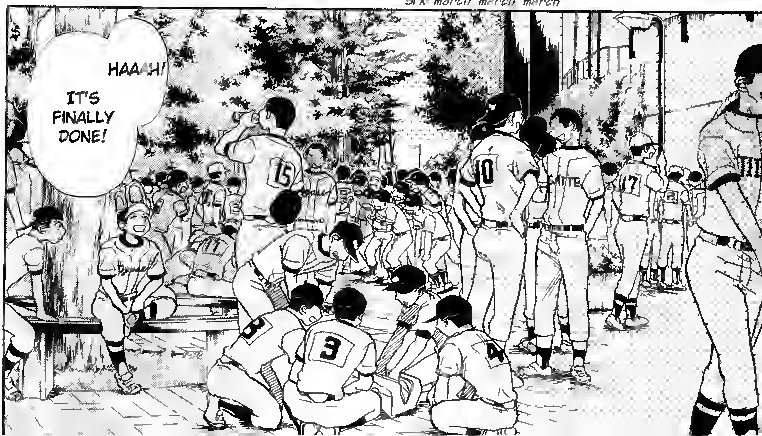
I KNOW MINE! THE VERY FIRST ONE!
OH NO, I CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE IS MINE!
THEY JUST CAME IN THROUGH THE GATE!
EHHHHHH?!
WHICH ONE IS MY SON?!
brass band's music

SWOOSH

IT'S REALLY STARTED!
SUMMER
SNIFF

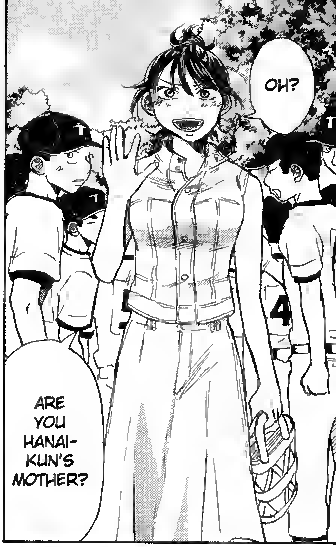
I UNDER-STAND!
EVERY-ONE'S
EVEN THE SIMPLEST THINGS CAN BE MOVING
MARCHING
clench
clench

PLEASE, GOD...
clench
ONE, TWO!
EVERY-ONE!
I WANT THEM ALL TO GET AS FAR AS THEY CAN!
sfx: one, two! one, two!
sfx: march, march, march

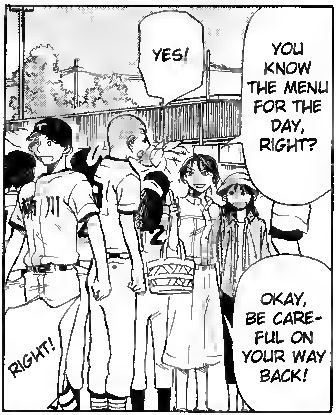

HAAAH!
IT'S FINALLY DONE!

HANAI!!!
EH?
chatter
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL RALLY IS AMAZING!
TH-
THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE...
chatter
Oh, right...
DON'T YOU MEAN IT'S START-ING?
→ Totally inexperienced so she got sun-burned
YOU DON'T CALL HIM BY HIS FIRST NAME?
HE GETS MAD WHEN I CALL HIM "AZUSA" IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE!
Ha-
ha-
ii~!
ERK!
GULP
WHERE IS SHE?
NOPE
IS YOUR COACH HERE?
DUNNO
WOW
SO EVEN HANAI-KUN IS LIKE THIS TO HIS MOTHER?
AW, SHADDUP!
EVEN THOUGH I PICKED OUT SUCH A GOOD NAME!
WHADDYA WANT?
WE SAW YOU!
OH, HELLO THERE!

AH, COACH..
Where?!
YOU'RE THE COACH? NICE TO MEET YOU!

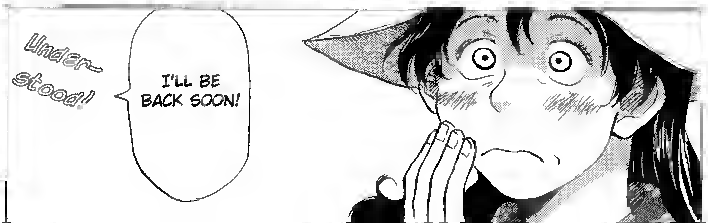

OH?
ARE YOU HANAI-KUN'S MOTHER?

I'm Mamoe!
I'm Hanai's mother!
GEH


YES!
YOU KNOW THE MENU FOR THE DAY, RIGHT?
OKAY, BE CARE-FUL ON YOUR WAY BACK!
RIGHT!

HANAI-KUN!

YES?


I'LL BE BACK SOON!
Under-stood!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A LADY COACH
IT DIDN'T REALLY SET IN UNTIL I ACTUALLY SAW YOU, BUT...
WOW, I'M REALLY IMPRESSED.
YES?
HANAI-KUN DOES VERY WELL.
HE TAKES ACTION EVEN IF I DON'T SAY ANYTHING, SO IT'S VERY HELPFUL!
I HOPE MY SON'S BEEN HELP-FUL TO YOU!
IT'S VERY AMA-ZING!
All right, get changed! We're going back!
Shinooka! I went ice cream!
After training, okay?
Buy it yourself...
COACH, THIS IS MIHASHI-SAN!
AH!
UM.
AH...
Jump!
ACTUALLY, HE WAS CAPTAIN IN JUNIOR HIGH AS WELL!
I-IS THAT SO?!
Amazing!
Wow

OH, I THOUGHT SO!!
EEH?
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!
A-AHA...
HA ..
UM...
MY SON
SHOWED ME HIS NUMBER ! SIGN..
OH, HIS UNIFORM NUMBER?
IS IT
REAL-LY...
ALL RIGHT THAT HE HAS IT?
OF COURSE! HE'S REALLY GREAT!
THERE AREN'T MANY KIDS WHO LIKE TO PITCH AS MUCH AS HE DOES!
I-
IS THAT TRUE...?
DOESN'T HE PRACTICE AT HOME A LOT TOO?

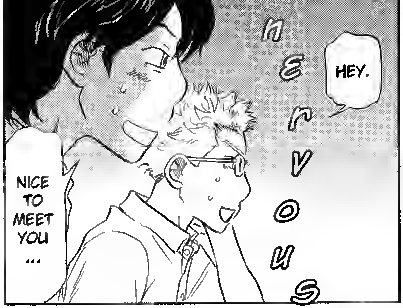
HE BECAME A PITCHER IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM PLAY, NOT EVEN ONCE.
EVEN WHEN HE'S SLEEPING OR EATING, HE'S ALWAYS PLAYING AROUND WITH A BALL...
YES!
WHEN HE WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, HE DIDN'T LIVE WITH US.
...UM.
FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN WATCH ALL OF HIS GAMES!
Smile
REALLY...?
RE-
MIHASHI-KUN DOES GREAT OUT THERE!

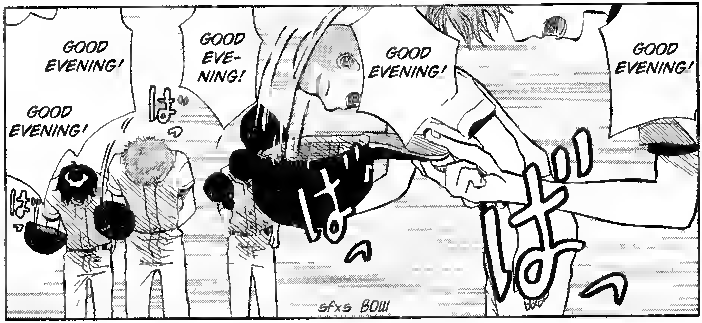
ALTHOUGH MY SON RARELY TALKS ABOUT IT AT HOME,
HE REALLY SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HIMSELF IN THE BASEBALL CLUB.
THAT REMINDS ME.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO THANK YOU, COACH!
MIS
I REALLY HAVE TO COMPLIMENT BOTH YOU AND THE TEACHER,
WOW.
BECAUSE HE WASN'T THAT WAY AT ALL IN JUNIOR HIGH!
AND ...ABOUT THE MONEY SITUATION, TOO.
WE HEARD THAT YOU WERE USING QUITE A BIT OF YOUR OWN FUNDS ...
MY SON IS WELL.
HE'S HAVING A LOT OF FUN EVERY DAY!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT!

WE'RE SETTING UP A PROPER PARENTS' ASSOCI-ATION,
AND MIHASHI-SAN AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT HELPING OUT WITH THE CLUB EX-PENSES.
WE THOUGHT WE COULD ALL PITCH IN TO HELP WITH THE ONIGIRI INGRE-DIENTS AND STUFF....
AND IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!
SURE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
A few days later...
AHH--
IT'S MAKING ME NERVOUS!

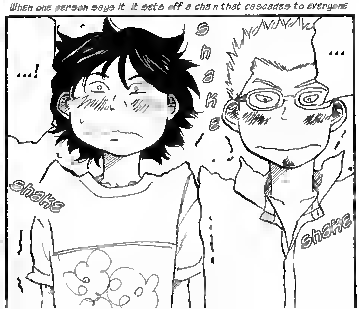
SURE THEY'RE NICE TO YOU.
SOME OF THOSE GUYS ARE IN YOUR CLASS.
AND WASN'T ONE OF THEM YOUR KOUHAI IN YOUR JUNIOR HIGH TEAM?
HUH?
WHAT IS?
FIRST TIME SEEING PEOPLE I'VE NEVER MET BEFORE. IT'S MAKING ME NERVOUS.
THEY'RE ALL NICE GUYS.
YEAH, WHAT HE SAID.
IT'S GOT THAT "OFFICIAL ATHLETIC CLUB" VIBE
ON TOP OF THAT, "BASEBALL TEAM" KINDA SOUNDS SCARY.
YEAH, THAT'S IZUMI
BUT HE'S NOT A KOUHAI AT ALL ANYMORE, YOU KNOW
HEY!
FROM NOW ON, YOU GUYS ARE IN THE BASEBALL CLUB OUENDAN, RIGHT?
COME ON, IT'LL BE FINE.

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT OUTFIT?
HEY!
HOW IS IT?
MY OUENDAN -LEADER OUTFIT!
EH?
YOU THINK SO?
It's good, it's good!
It's so weird!
That's so cool!
WELL, TOMOR-ROW IS FINALLY HERE.
OUR DEBUT.
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY IT WAS WEIRD?
OH, AND THESE GUYS
THEY'RE GOING TO LEAD THE CROWD WITH ME. THAT'S THE PLAN FOR NOW.





When one person says it, it sets off a chain that cascades to everyone



TOMORROW!
I GOT PLENTY OF PEOPLE COMING!
You're so fast
HOW MANY IS "PLENTY"?
OH.
MIHASHI.
Come here An
AH... EH?
hurried
He's not coming out because there are people he doesn't know around
I WONDER IF THAT'S TOO MANY
THAT WON'T MAKE MIHASHI TOO NERVOUS, WILL IT?
"PLENTY" MEANS A LITTLE OVER 200 OR SO.
WHY?
HE RAN OFF.
200 PEOPLE?!

twitch
Jump
WAS HE ALWAYS THAT MUCH OF A SCAREDY-CAT...?
SPEAK-ING OF MIHASHI ...
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO WEAR A WIN-TER UNI-FORM?
WON'T IT BE HOT?
YEAH, IT'LL BE WARM,
That's the real thing too.
BUT IT'S STANDARD FOR AN OUENDAN
OH, IZUMI
HELLO
HI.
HELLO
takes off cap
HEY, ALL DONE?
puts cap on
NOT THAT IT MATTERS, BUT
ARE YOU DOING THAT ON PURPOSE?
AND ON TOP OF THAT... LOOK, I'M NOT STRAIGHTENING MY ELBOW...
pose!
BUT WITH THE LONG SLEEVES, IF I TURN IT LIKE THIS, YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL!
Let's go put these away
Yeah

YEAH... ER,
...UM.
CHECK IT OUT!
SEE HOW SMOOTH IT LOOKS?
ELBOW?
OH, UM...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ANYTHING FROM IZUMI?
He should know.
WHY WOULD I EVEN WANNA TALK ABOUT YOU?
EHEHE, IS THAT SO?
How little brat!
Even though you used to be my kouhai.
you've been a real pain lately!
QUIT IT!
push
push
...IF I RECALL, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY LET KIDS PITCH TOO MUCH.
LITTLE LEAGUE ELBOW?
I KNEW IT... THAT MEANS THIS GUY USED TO BE A BASEBALL PLAYER, TOO.
UM...
YOU HAVE A BAD ELBOW?
YEAH
IT'S LITTLE LEAGUE ELBOW
squeeze
Ow!
Ow!
Ow!

DON'T GET DEPRESSED OVER IT!
IN JUNIOR HIGH, HE DID ALL KINDS OF THINGS!
EEP!
BUT
IF THE CONDITION IS CAUGHT IN TIME, IT CAN HEAL NORMALLY.
IT CAN CAUSE PERMANENT DAMAGE, MAKING HEALING DIFFICULT ...
IF THE BONE KEEPS GROWING IN THAT POSITION,
sfx: BAM!
EH...
HE
HE
ehe ehe
THIS GUY'S NOT WORTH THAT KIND OF CONCERN, HANA!
IF YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT PLAYING BASEBALL, YOU'D HAVE GONE TO THE DOCTOR BY NOW.
SWINGING BATS ISN'T A PROBLEM.
OH.
ehe
ehe
...
That mouth of yours...!
NGGGG!

HE'S MIHASHI'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
AND IZUMI'S
BUT...
IS THAT THE ONLY REASON WHY HE WANTED TO LEAD THE OUENDAN?
HUH?
yank
grab
HAMADA-SAN!
HE GOT HIS FRIENDS INVOLVED
AND ARRANGED FOR 200 PEOPLE TO COME TO THE GAME,
AND HE'S WEARING THE WINTER UNIFORM EVEN IF IT'S SUMMER
THANK YOU
FOR ORGANIZING A CHEERING SECTION!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE OUENDAN!
bow

AH, LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
IF YOU WANTED HIM TO JOIN THE TEAM, YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID SO.
...
HE SAID HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP.
...
tsssss
OKAY.
IZUMI! WE GOTTA FINISH THE FIELD!
IT SOUNDED LIKE HE THOUGHT HE WAS HELPING YOU ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM OR SOMETHING...
I'M NOT DECEIVING ANYONE!
DECEIVING SUCH AN UNSUSPECTING GUY.
...
YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM THE REAL REASON YOU GOT HELD BACK, DID YOU?

BUT THOSE GUYS...
THEY'RE SUCH PURE-HEARTED BOYS
IT'S NOT LIKE THEIR VIRGIN EARS WOULD BE SOILED BY TALES OF YOUR SORDID PAST.
WELL, "IDIOTS" WILL BE "IDIOTS."
...
THANKS FOR AGREEING TO BE PART OF THE QUENDAN
...IT'S NO BIG
WE'VE GOT SOME SPARE TIME, SO IT'S ALL GOOD
EHEHE...
AWKWARD!
NOW THEN,
FLOP

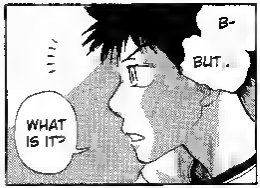
DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, WE MIGHT DEVIATE FROM THIS PATTERN,
WHY IS HE SITTING LIKE THAT?
HERE'S WHAT THE OFFENSE LOOKS LIKE.
clatter
I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE BASIC IDEA.
EACH BATTER'S QUIRK, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU'VE MEMORIZED
sfx rattle
DON'T YOU EVEN CA-
quiver
quiver
HEY! YOU'VE HAD THE DATA FOR A WEEK NOW!

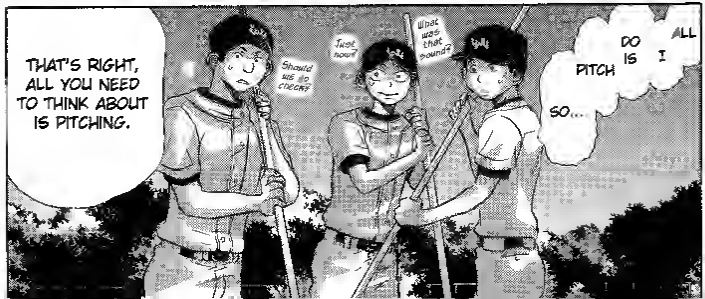
WAIT
HE DOES CARE.
THIS GUY.
SHAME!
SHAME
DAMN.
AL-RIGHT.
IN ANY CASE,
flip
LET'S DO IT NOW TRY TO MEMORIZE AT LEAST THE REGULARS' STRONG AND WEAK POINTS.
rustle
THAT'S ONLY ONE PAGE.
WHOA!
...
rustle
SHOCK

ガバッ
Jump!
SFX: Slam

UH...
SHAKE
SHAKE

YEEES, WAKE UP, PLEASE.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE


B-
BUT...
WHAT IS IT?


ALL I DO IS PITCH SO...
What was that sound?
Just now?
Should we go check?
THAT'S RIGHT, ALL YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT IS PITCHING.

YOU WON'T KNOW WHICH IS MORE RISKY, INSIDE OR OUTSIDE, RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE BATTER LIKES THAT PLACE,
SAY I GIVE YOU A SIGN TO AIM CLOSE TO THE OUTSIDE.
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO KNOW THIS STUFF.
...I...
EVEN IF...
no, wait.
HUH?
EVEN IF I KNOW,
I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.

I JUST THROW
WHERE YOU TELL ME
TO THROW.
THAT'S ALL, SO...
BUT STILL!
clench
power
rattle
unn
...?
THE MEETING WILL BE TOTALLY USELESS IF YOU CAN'T EVEN GRASP THIS MUCH!
YOU HAVE 10 MINUTES!
READY
TE-
panic
TEN

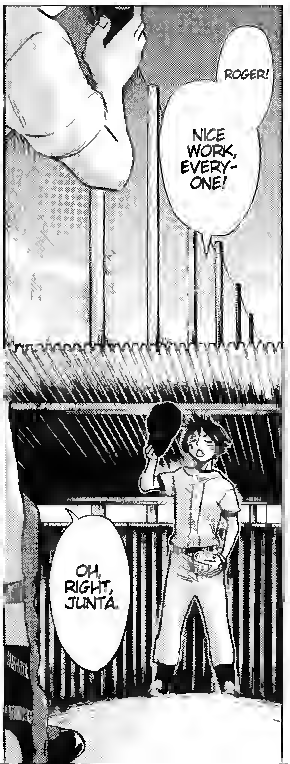
GO!
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HIM, BUT...
click
WHAT'S MORE,
THOSE WORDS SOUND DIFFERENT COMING FROM HIS MOUTH.
I'M GLAD
HE SPOKE HIS MIND AGAIN.
HE REALLY
steam
Straight pull...
first...
THROWS THE BALL EXACTLY WHERE I TELL HIM TO.
AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE HE HAS
FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIS CONTROL.
REGARDLESS OF WHERE
OR AGAINST WHOM HE'S PLAYING...

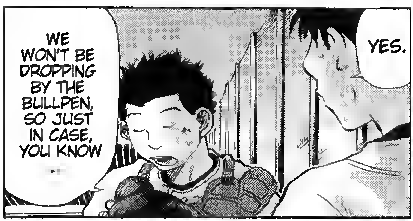
"I JUST THROW"
"WHERE YOU TELL ME TO..."
RATHER THAN CONFIDENCE...
...
gulp
HE HAS THAT MUCH TRUST IN ME, HUH..

THAT ALONE MAKES ME HAPPY, BUT ...
SUCH TRUST IS SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY.
WHAT THE HELL, YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT MUCH?!
sfx: startle
sfx: bang
10 minutes
urghhh
5 minutes
uh
uh
sfx: SMACK
TRY USING YOUR HEAD A LITTLE!
LINK THAT STUFF WITH THE NAMES OR SOMETHING!
AH.
EVERYTHING SEEMS OKAY,
I THINK ...
...YEAH, PROBABLY.
OH, HIM!
WHO?
SHAKE
SHAKE

ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY!

YES?
BOUT TOMORROW ...
I GUESS IT SHOULD BE PIECE OF CAKE...


ROGER!
NICE WORK, EVERYONE!
OH, RIGHT, JUNTA.


YES.
WE WON'T BE DROPPING BY THE BULLPEN, SO JUST IN CASE, YOU KNOW ...

JUST IN CASE.
?

I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER LIKE, FOREVER, BUT ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ONE YEAR, SINCE WE BECAME A BATTERY...
THANKS.
...
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS NOW?
WELL .. IN THE BULLPEN, I'VE CAUGHT MORE OF YOUR PITCHES THAN ANYONE ELSE'S, AND BESIDES
WE DON'T HAVE TRAINING TOMOR-ROW, SO ...
THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW, I GUESS.
...
I SEE.
THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW, YOU SAY?
EX-ACT-LY.

AS OF TODAY, "TRAINING" IS OVER.
ALRIGHT.
SEEMS LIKE THE RIGHT TIME TO SAY THIS.
badump
DESPITE ALL THE HARSH THINGS I'VE SAID,
IT'S THANKS TO YOU WE'VE COME THIS FAR.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
THE REAL SHOW STARTS TOMOR-ROW.
YES!

GLOOM...
chatter
chatter
chatter
THOSE CLOUDS ARE RATHER INCREDIBLE.
80% CHANCE IT'S GONNA RAIN.
WHAT IF IT STARTS RAINING DURING THE GAME?
NOTHING HAPPENS, UNLESS THE RAIN'S REALLY HEAVY.
I SEE... I GUESS WE CAN PUT UP WITH IT FOR 2 HOURS ...
...

#1! CENTER FIELD, IZUMI!
#2! SECOND BASE, SAKAEGUCHI!
ROG-ER!
ROGER!
ROGER!
#3! SHORT-STOP, SUYAMA!
#4, THIRD BASE, TAJIMA!
ROGER!

#8! PITCHER, MIHASHI!
#6! FIRST BASE, OK!!
#5! RIGHT FIELD, HANAI!
ROG-ER!
ROGER!
#9! CATCHER, ABE!
ROGER!
#7! LEFT FIELD, MIZUTANI!
ROG-ER!
Nishiura
Nishiura
Nishiura

LET'S SHOW THEM THE RESULTS OF OUR TRAINING!
All right!
clench
TEAM SHOUT!

SHOW ME YOUR HAND.
glance
MIHASHI!
Looks like it's gonna rain...
How think so?
clap
trot trot
FIRST, I ATE A BANANA.
AH.
I ATE BREAK-FAST
AND THEN
NICE!
I'VE BROUGHT A LUNCH BOX, TOO
I HAVE-N'T FOR-GOT-TEN
...?
IT'S NOT COLD AT ALL!
OH!
TOUCH-ING HANDS
AND I WOKE UP IN A FLASH, TOO!
TODAY,
I WENT TO SLEEP EARLY!
...
nod
I SEE.
thump
HE'S SAYING HE'S IN TOP CONDITION TODAY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
AND THEN ... UM ...
...?
I HAVE-N'T FOR-GOT-TEN ANY-THING ...

ALL PREPA-RATIONS COMPLETE ?
YES!
!
ALL RIGHT.
TOSEI
TOSEI
TOSEI
LET'S GO!

第11回／終わり

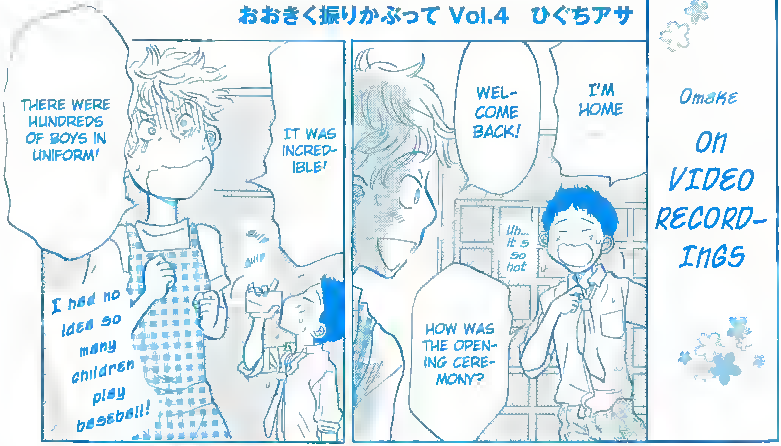
... And now to the oma-ke
Second Grade, Fall.
He's humming because he's scared
PAM
clatter clatter
PAM
PA-...
clatter
PAM-PAM
clatter
REN?!
Startle
THIS LATE ...
WHE-
YOU-
STUPID!
clomp
I'M HOME!
D-
D-
DAD!

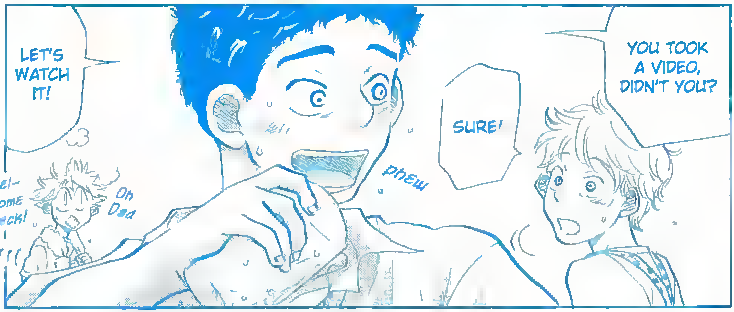
UHUH
YOU WERE PLAYING BASEBALL ?
UHUH
I WAS SO SCARED!
SQUEEZE
UH
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
SQUEEZE
DADDY WAS SO WORRIED ...
MOMMY WASN'T PICKING UP THE PHONE ...
WHO DID YOU PLAY WITH?
DADDY PHONED ALL OF YOUR CLASSMATES' PARENTS.
BUT NEXT TIME, CALL HOME AT 6!
OK!
PRO-MISE!
OK!
YOU CAN PLAY,
BUT THE CREAKING RUST VILLA ...
HUH?
I WENT TO THE CREAKING RUST VILLA!
N-
NO!
Mardin omake.
The Secret of the Cake.
birthday
cake
12 equal pieces
10 club members
mom
one piece left
Contest
rock paper scissors scramble

A lot has happened In the end two people remained
Cake is a luxury item
Sakeguchi
I love whipped cream
Mizutani
Sakeguchi "How about we share it?"
Mizutani "Oh! Good idea!"
Refer to the first panel on page 30
GULP
DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE!
...
MAYBE ...
HOW'S EVERYONE DOING?
WHERE DID YOU MEET?
ARE YOU HURT SOME-WHERE?
...WHAT'S WRONG?
SNIVEL SNIVEL
...AH.
MAYBE YOU'RE HUNGRY?
?!
HE'S CRYING?!
SOB SOB

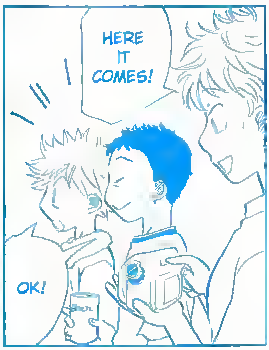
THERE. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
CURRY?
MAC AND CHEESE?
I CAN COOK OMELET RICE, TOO
pat
Mou
Sob
Sob
nod
DADDY'S GOING TO MAKE ANYTHING YOU WANT.
ANY-THING ?
gulp
MAKE A "TARGET"!
...A "TARGET" ?
WHAT'S THAT?
sniff
sniff
REALLY ANYTHING?
HE STOPPED CRYING.
SUCH A SIMPLE CHILD ...
THEN ...
SURE! I'LL DO MY BEST!

LIKE THAT ONE AT THE CREAKING RUST VILLA!
step
jump
step
jump
ON THE FENCE
But
this house has nothing but hed-gas
LIKE THIS! AND THIS!
IT WAS DRAWN ON THE FENCE.
...
sob...
I'M HOME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAKING A TARGET.
click
And that's how the "target" was born...
TBC in vol.5!


THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF BOYS IN UNIFORM!
IT WAS INCRED-IBLE!
I had no idea so many children play baseball!!
WEL-COME BACK!
I'M HOME
Uh... it's so hot
HOW WAS THE OPEN-ING CERE-MONY?
Omake
On VIDEO RECORD-INGS

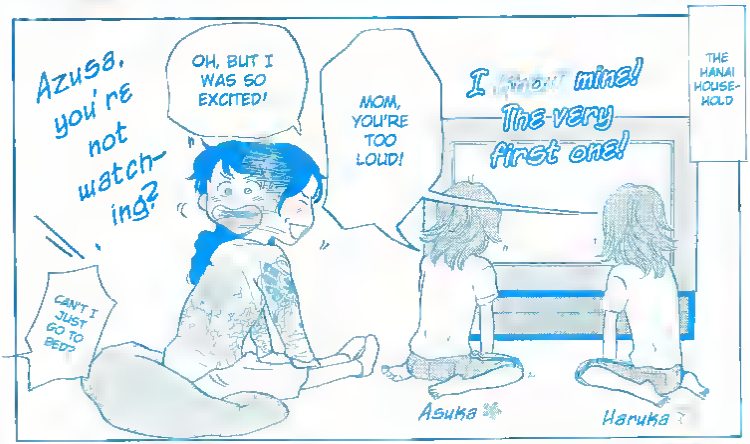

LET'S WATCH IT!
YOU TOOK A VIDEO, DIDN'T YOU?
SURE!
phew
Wel-come back!
Oh Dad

Mihashi-san, look! Nishi-ura's coming in!
music
music
What?!
Where!!


HERE IT COMES!
OK!

Oh no. I can't tell which one is mine!!!
I know mine! The very first one!
Ehhhhh?! Which one is my son?!
They just came in through the gate!
WHERE ARE YOU?
H-
HERE
M. MAY I TURN IT OFF?
NO!
GIVES YOU A GOOD IDEA WHAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS LIKE, DOESN'T IT?
YUP!
Beer
milk

Watch what you're saying when you're using a camcorder


Azusa, you're not watching?
OH, BUT I WAS SO EXCITED!
MOM, YOU'RE TOO LOUD!
I know mine! The very first one!
THE HANAI HOUSEHOLD
CAN'T I JUST GO TO BED?
Asuka
Haruka

The End

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